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## Schmidt urges Nato arms parity stand

Armed peace, backed by deterrents, has taught us to live with contradictions. In New York the heads of government and Foreign Ministers of 149 countries, some solemnly, some beseechingly, endorsed international disarmament.

In Washington the Nato summit approved a long-term defence programme entailing an increase in defence spending by all member-countries of the North Atlantic pact.

Since its inception in 1949, Nato, set up to keep the peace rather than to foster an arms build-up, has hovered between heaven and hell.

Detente and arms limitation involve offsetting pressure from the other world power by means of counter-pressure. It would be illusory to want to ignore the striving for power and conflict of interests in the East-West conflict relationship.

In this context security can only be debated level-headedly. Agreements must bear both sides' security requirements in mind.

Which is why no-one has any great expectations of the special UN General Assembly: neither the Soviet Union, despite its predilection for posing as an angel of peace, nor the Nato leaders in Washington, nor the non-aligned countries, on whose initiative the conference was convened.

UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim says it would be naive to expect the assembly to usher in a comprehensive disarmament agreement.

Thus the session will not end with a blueprint for action. Instead it will compile reference documents providing for a number of minor but feasible moves in, say, the context of confidence-building measures.

The special General Assembly will not prevent a single shot being fired, nor will it reach a majority decision that all that is needed to improve the lot of thousands of millions in the Third World is a redeployment of the 2,000 million deutschemarks a day or so spent on armaments.

For one, the strategic arms limitation talks remain the superpowers' responsibility. What is more, the developing countries keenest on declaring this variation on capital transfer a categorical imperative are themselves busy arming to the teeth.

On the international arms market, which has never needed to worry about a recession, the Third World spends $8,000 million a year.

Helmut Schmidt, while in Washington for the Nato summit, was doubtless right in referring somewhat disparagingly, to Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's "all-embracing concepts" and "roll-on, roll-off similes."

Much the same accusations could be levelled at the US and French delegates' contributions to the General Assembly debate. The Bonn Chancellor, who is temperamentally ill-suited to pipe-dreams, outlined with matter-of-fact precision and without an iota of self-doubt his views on a comprehensive "partnership in security."

This has been an idea Herr Schmidt has advoocated since the 60s. It is based on a political, strategic and milimary balance of power.

In his speech to the General Assembly, as at the Nato summit in Washington, the Chancellor recalled the declaration he and Mr Brezhnev signed in Bonn.

It was, he said, the first East-West document ever to note that no-one is striving for military superiority and that "approximate equality and parity" are a sufficient safeguard.

The Nato countries in Washington repeated that Soviet superiority in the conventional sector has continued to prevent this parity occuring, despite Moscow's protestations to the contrary.

Helmut Schmidt's pragmatic detente concept goes further. It includes conflict containment and effective crisis management, leading to a crucial notion — that of the "predictability" of political and military behaviour.

"Unpredictable moves can give rise to danger," he said in New York. This barb was unmistakeably directed at President Carter, whom the Chancellor continues to consider unpredictable, although he no longer says so in public.

There was no overlooking the admonitory forefinger as Herr Schmidt warned the UN against tutelage of the kind envisaged by President Carter with his non-proliferation legislation for both

Continued on page 2



Chancellor Schmidt and President Cartor leave the White House after a breakfast meeting during the Chancellor's trip to America to address the United Nations and attend the Nato summit. (Photo: dpa)

## Local elections send FDP into the cold

Christian Democrat Ernst Albrecht has good reason to be jubilant: after two years as premier of Lower Saxony he now commands an absolute majority in the Hanover state assembly.

But this is not the most important outcome of the 4 June state assembly elections in Lower Saxony.

Social Democrat Hans-Ulrich Klose can also congratulate himself on having regained an absolute majority of votes cast on the same day in Hamburg.

But here too the ruling party's gains were not the key factor in the city council elections.

Burgomaster Klose's returns are readily accounted for as a stabilisation of the SPD vote in Hamburg, in comparison with the Social Democrats' unusually poor performance in 1974.

The SPD in Hamburg also benefited, of course, from Helmut Schmidt, the party's Bonn Chancellor, being a local man.

But the crucial outcome of both elections is that the Free Democrats, hitherto in harness with the Christian Democrats in Lower Saxony and with the Social Democrats in Hamburg, have failed to impress the electorate.

The FDP has always been keen on emphasising its independence. It now does not even face the consolation of a long, hard spell on the Opposition benches.

In both Länder the Free Democrats failed to poll five per cent and thus were not returned to the assembly. The FDP is out in the cold.

Two conclusions may surely be drawn. First, none of the major parties — neither the CDU nor the SPD nor the FDP — have proved able to hold on to the protest vote. Ecological parties — the Green Lists — got off to a good start and herald a crisis in the established party system.

Second, FDP leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher's attempt to follow the trend and pave the way for a gradual change in coalition allegiance in Bonn has failed.

What the FDP now needs is not a man who allows himself to be carried along by currents of opinion, but a man who determinedly leads his stalwarts into new areas.

The Free Democrats' failure to scale the five-per-cent hurdle in two Länder simultaneously cannot fail to have serious repercussions in Bonn.

Chancellor Schmidt will have to govern in joint harness with a severely wounded and unpredictable coalition partner.

*W. Hertz-Eichenrode*

(Die Welt, 5 June 1978)

## Business first for China's trade team

China is determined to intensify its trade ties with the industrialised West, especially in imports, and the high ranking Peking delegation to Bonn led by Deputy Premier Ku Mu is intimately associated with China's plans for industrial modernisation.

Ku Mu himself is something of a super-Minister. He heads the state commission on investment construction, responsible for China's entire industrial modernisation programme.

His fellow-Minister Lee Chiang, responsible for technology, has recently toured Europe several times in the quest for technological know-how.

Ku Mu, in Bonn as part of his delegation's European tour, is, moreover, the first post-Cultural Revolution Chinese leader to pay the Federal Republic an official visit.

China is keen to foster ties with two partners, first the United States, then the "Second World, which is fighting against the hegemony of the superpowers, that of one of the superpowers in particular."

Taiwan is an obstacle to cordial ties between Peking and Washington. China is bitterly disappointed that nothing definite has yet come of President Nixon's

Continued on page 2

## IN THIS ISSUE

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# Brandt commission trends begin to take shape

Willy Brandt's independent commission on international development will submit its final report next year to two authorities, UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and the court of international public opinion.

After the commission's third session, the first to be held in the Third World, trends have emerged that seem to indicate focal points of activity.

At the first two meetings of the 18 international political personalities nominated by Herr Brandt as members of his independent brains trust, the emphasis was on getting to know one another, on coordinating methods and agreeing on fundamental objectives.

Having reached agreement in Bonn and Geneva the commission met in May in Bamako, the capital of Mali, one of the poorest developing countries, where it dealt with major aspects of its complex and explosive subject matter.

The developing countries, for instance, expect the weight the Brandt commission carries to be deployed in support of their demand for a new international economic order.

And there can be little doubt that in the interest of a peace policy designed to relax tension, the international economy needs new, more just but also stabilising terms of reference.

The developing countries are interested in more open markets and stable prices for commodities ranging from coconuts to copper.

They would also like to peg commodity prices to those of a basket of industrial goods to ensure that the price ratio of, say, so many tons of sisal for a tractor, does not continually change to their disadvantage.

The industrialised countries, for their part, would appreciate safe supplies of raw materials unaccompanied by political and strategic price experiments.

Yet arrangements of this kind, as members of the commission trenchantly noted, by no means automatically solve the problems of underdevelopment and social injustice.

This presupposes a fairer distribution of goods not only between North and South but also in the developing countries themselves — by means, for instance, of the abolition of privilege and corruption, fairer taxation and investment designed to improve structure.

The commission will no doubt strongly favour writing off debts. Apart from a few individuals who choose to stand on principle, nearly all representatives of the industrialised countries realise that a country which spends 80 per cent of its budget on debt funding is no longer capable of either action or development.

It is no secret that inexperience and high-handed economic mismanagement in the developing countries are not the sole reasons for the high level of indebtedness.

Irresponsible credit policies geared exclusively to the donor country's export requirements, unaccountable price manipulation on world markets (also by the donor countries, who have the advantage of greater leverage) and bureaucratic mismanagement by all-powerful international organisations are also to blame.

A generous gesture signifying a fresh start (but incorporating safeguards against subsequent abuse) will probably benefit both sides, especially the climate in which international cooperation is conducted.

Basic needs are a further issue on which views differ, albeit less in principle than over practical implementation.

Yet an above-average international effort could well end the worst manifestations of mass hardship, especially if, during the next decade, a reduction in at least the momentum of the arms race could be accomplished, thereby making additional funds available for international North-South detente.

But who is to decide what the basic needs are in any given country or continent? When industrialised countries propose concentrating first on satisfying basic needs, mistrustful developing countries promply suspect a ploy designed to halt their progress towards industrialisation.

The Third World countries cannot allow either West or East to stipulate priorities when it comes to basic needs in their part of the world.

Food for all may well come first in principle, but agreement on the yardsticks by which it is to be judged is sure to prove problematic. Views will also differ on basic needs in, medical care and housing.

Some countries will give priority to paid employment, others to literacy and education campaigns.

Representatives of the developing countries have frankly voiced their dissatisfaction with the autocratic behaviour of international organisations.

This testimony to the Brandt commission demonstrates their growing confidence in its independence. But the other side of the coin is that no-one is dependent on the commission either, since it has no money to allocate.

It is hard to reconcile this criticism with the developing countries' constant tendency to clamour for new institutions, funds and committees for any problem.

So from start to finish the Brandt commission will not luck controversial issues to debate.

*Hannes Burger*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 June 1978)

Continued from page 1

visit and the 1972 Shanghai communiqué.

Japan, a "Second World" country in Chinese eyes, disputes the ownership of a group of islands with Peking, whereas there are no territorial disputes between Peking and Western Europe.

True, Peking is none too enthusiastic about Bonn's commitment to detente, but Ku Mu's visit is about business — although China has no objection to combining business with riling the Soviet Union should the opportunity arise.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 May 1978)

# Soviet Africa policy calls for response

When countries large or small pursue policies, they do so in their own interests. This alone is not objectionable and anyone who feels otherwise sees the world through rose-coloured spectacles.

The difference between good and bad politics is to be found elsewhere. In the long term the most successful politicians are those who, rather than pursue their own interests come what may, manage to compromise with others.

It is bad policy to seek short-term advantage from exploitation of another's weakness.

Somewhere or other in the recesses of national interest there is always the matter of the morality of what is done or left undone.

It is not, for instance, the first time that alien interests have clashed on African soil.

In the aftermath of two world wars waged for the most part in Europe, the European colonial powers were too debilitated to maintain their claims to colonial power. The Cold War between East and West accelerated the end of Europe's colonial heritage.

Many were uneasy yet it is understandable enough that from the 50s the Soviet Union took any opportunity to gain a foothold in areas previously considered exclusively Western spheres of influence.

No-one will seriously dispute that the *Soviet Union, as a world power, is entitled* to look after its own interests. What makes the current clashes in Africa increasingly alarming is something else.

Regardless of talk of solidarity and the common struggle for greater justice and genuine independence, the practical policies pursued by the Soviet Union and a number of its allies repeatedly demonstrate that their sole objective is to impose fresh economic, political and military dependence on the new nations of Africa.

Examples are readily cited: Ghana and Sudan, Angola and Mozambique, Ethiopia and Somalia. By willingly supplying arms, building up secret police services and concluding economic barter agreements to the detriment of what are, for the most part, impoverished countries, the Soviet Union and its allies have sought to gain strategic advantages.

The West has usually looked on idly — no doubt partly because it was not in a position to throw stones.

All too frequently in the past (and up to the present day) Western countries have also been cynically engaged in power politics of this kind in Africa. While talking of partnership, they have often merely feathered their own nests.

The West's uneasy conscience sticks out like a sore thumb in connection with the survival of white minority rule in southern Africa.

While the West may verbally condemn the racist policies of the white minority regimes, it continues to maintain close economic ties with them.

This state of affairs began to change last year, but until a transfer to black majority rule has been effected in Rhodesia and Namibia the Soviet Union should have little difficulty in continuing to represent the lesser evil — in African eyes at least.

But the brutal frankness with which the Soviet Union, aided and abetted by Cuba and the GDR, is now waging power politics in Africa has increasingly alarmed not only the African countries themselves but also Europe, the United States and China.

It is obviously high time the West counteracted this East bloc activity. It, no less than the Soviet Union, is entitled to look after its own interests.

*Werner Holzer*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 June 1978)

# Call to Nato

Continued from page 1

nuclear armament and non-military uses of atomic energy.

The Chancellor could be sure of applause from the Third World on this score. He was also sure of appreciative nods from delegates of countries which, like the Federal Republic, are dependent on supplies of nuclear fuel from the United States and objected to controls and restrictions above the provisions of the nuclear non-proliferation agreement.

Repercussions of another kind are likely to ensue from comments made by Herr Schmidt in America with the developing countries in mind.

He began by diplomatically stating his expectation that the developing countries would reply in kind to the solidarity shown by the industrialised countries in their commiment to development aid.

Afterwards, speaking to the press, the Chancellor repeated the view he expressed in Hamburg in May.

Criticism of Bonn, which has become virtually obligatory in UN resolutions, can no longer be taken lying down, he said. Critics can expect their development aid from Bonn to be curtailed accordingly.

The Chancellor's advisers would do well to explain to him that this particular threat is anything but likely to induce the countries concerned to mind their political behaviour.

The Bonn delegation flew to Washington for the Nato summit with expectations altogether different from those of their America hosts.

In New York Chancellor Schmidt talked in terms of a "travelling exhibition," whereas the US press reckoned the summit to be one of the most important gatherings in Nato's history.

The Chancellor wanted to extract from the summit a convincing commitment to arms limitation and troop cuts, thereby establishing a ling with the UN General Assembly.

President Carter, on the other hand, having been accused of laxity towards the Soviet Union by domestic critics, was concerned to induce a clarion call of Western determination and military strength.

*Richard Kiessler*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 4 June 1978)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

# German groundwork behind new swoops on terrorists

The Federal Republic of Germany's security forces have a bad reputation, with mistakes made in tracking down terrorists as responsible as the disproportion between the number of wanted terrorists and arrests.

Critics do not tire of praising foreign police forces, which they say have been more succesful in catching German anarchists.

The Dutch, the French and the Swiss top the list, now joined by Yugoslavia.

But the latest case proves that the critics only appear to be right in assuming that foreign policemen are more efficient.

The arrest of the four terrorists in Yugoslavia and the arrest of a terrorist in Paris is due to the care of German preliminary work. German policemen gave the foreign authorities the tips that led to them.

The old tricks with false passports and beards are no longer foolproof. New search and research methods are bearing fruit.

It is easy to explain why the crop is being harvested abroad, earning praise for foreign police.

After the series of assassinations last year terrorists found it to hot in Germany and escaped abroad to prepare new attacks.

But Berlin has remained a weak point for Germany's police, as borne out by the recent freeing of an imprisoned terrorist. This is due to the special political position of the city which hampers the work of German security forces.

It has been known since the Baader-Meinhof era that terrorists have been freely coming and going via East Berlin.

The German terrorists' retreat abroad, mainly to France, Italy, Switzerland and Holland, called for new search methods for German security forces.

It was no longer enough to provide foreign police with wanted lists. More and more German officers had to go abroad to help secure evidence following attacks by German terrorists in neighbouring countries.

These operations were centrally controlled by a newly-established department of the Federal Criminal Investigation Office.

The department deals with "target searches." This means every wanted terrorists is tracked by a highly qualified plainclothesman thoroughly familiar with his target and knowing where to look for his quarry.

The Federal Criminal Investigation Office headquarters coordinates the exchange of information between the individual operatives in the field.

To be successful, the specialised target search had to shift its operations abroad — wherever possible with the consent of the country concerned, but if necessary, without.

The methods used have proved successful, and it is unlikely that they will meet with criticism.

But a question arises: if border police officers (who check passports) had had the same spectacular successes, would some of their practices coming under heavy fire today be considered less questionable?

This shows that, in the public view, success justifies many means in combating crime.

But the latest success is still incomplete pending the extradition of the terrorists and their trial in a German court.

So far, Yugoslavia has refused to extradite, asking for a number of Croatians living in the Federal Republic of Germany to be extradited in return.

Yugoslavia considers these Croatians as terrorists because they allegedly intend to destroy the Yugoslav state by using force.

Regardless of whether this demonstrates the inability of the community of nations to agree on a uniform definition of terrorism, it is quite impossible for this country to comply with such a request.

No adequate evidence (such as that against the German terrorists) has been presented against the Croatians in exile.

Despite a visit to Yugoslavia by State Minister Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, Belgrade is unyielding.

Bonn can now only hope that international opinion, following the assassinations of Hanns-Martin Schleyer and Aldo Moro, well show no sympathy if Yugoslavia lets the terrorists go their bloody way.

*Hans Jörg Sottorf*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 31 May 1978)

# Study probes backgrounds of Top 40

More than two-thirds of the 40 most wanted German terrorists come from upper middle-class homes, says a preliminary study on the social background of terrorists by a joint Federal and Länder work group.

The study, recently released by the Bonn Interior ministry, is based on the evaluation of the backgrounds of these 40 people — although the number is too small for a general assessment.

Still, it can be said that a relatively high percentage of the terrorists under review come from large families and grew up in major cities. The proportion of women is 60 per cent, considerably above women's share in general crime.

One-third of the fathers of the wanted terrorists are university graduates.

The number of terrorists with at least ten years of schooling (77 per cent) is clearly above the national average.

Fifty-five per cent have the *Abitur* (university entrance qualification) and 60 per cent have attended university.

Nationally, only 32 per cent of the people born in the same period (1947 to 1953) have ten years of schooling and a mere 14 per cent the *Abitur.*

Equally conspicuous is the above-average number of university students among terrorists, with favourite subjects being sociology and education.

Another remarkable aspect is the high proportion who dropped out of university: 21 of 24.

Further analysis of backgrounds will be the focal point of the project, aimed at "shedding light on conditions leading to terrorist developments."

*Werner Bollmann*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 31 May 1978)

# Terror fight moves into new phase

The confrontation with terrorism seems about to enter a new phase.

On the one hand, new techniques have provided a clear picture of the terrorist scene, right down to the smallest detail. Police successes, too, are quite remarkable, disregarding the setback in Berlin.

On the other hand, the terrorists are now resorting to a new type of street attack, as demonstrated in Berlin.

This "Italian" method is less risky than spectacular hostage-taking which, following the assassinations of Schleyer and Moro, can no longer be expected to show results.

Bomb attacks and shootings from moving vehicles, making use of surprise, can, the terrorists hope, achieve an intimidating effect. But they are mistaken, and they will fail here as they have failed in Italy.

It was to be expected that the bold action in the Moabit prison would be carried out by the same woman terrorists who were once its inmates and who escaped or were exchanged for Peter Lorenz.

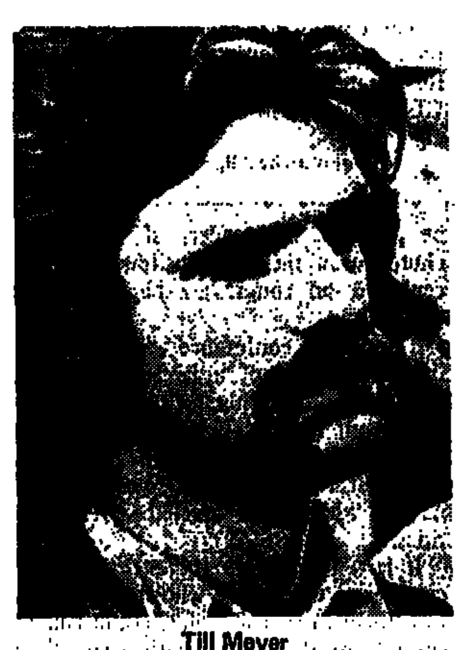
Apart from the correctly judged failure of the security mechanisms, familiarity with the location was needed for success.

It would seem in order here to praise the clarification provided by the Yugoslav Embassy in Bonn, which said there would be no barter over the extradition of the four terrorists caught in Yugoslavia.

As a result, there will be no deterioration of German-Yugoslav relations and conditions for the fight against terrorism will improve.

*Ludwig Hirte*

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 1 June 1978)



Till Meyer (Photo: dpa)

# Moabit jailbreak simple failure of security

The two woman terrorists who pleased the alleged terrorist Till Meyer from Berlin's Moabit prison had as much trouble as they would have if the Berlin Department of Justice barred their access with a pentacle — the occult five-pointed star believed to ward off the devil in mediaeval times.

Two women present forged attorneys' identity cards at the gate and no-one asks them what they want and who their client is. They are permitted to enter, effortlessly pass a number of checkpoints and, unsearched, gain access to the corridors with the visitors' cells. There they pick up their man.

The jailbreak of the alleged accomplice in the murder of Berlin judge Günter von Drenkmann, and the kidnapping of CDU politician Peter Lorenz is grotesquely similar to the escape of the RAF (Red Army Faction) terrorists Monika Berberich, Juliane Plambeck, Gabriele Rollnick and Inge Viett from a women's prison about two years ago.

Was a conspiracy involved? It certainly seemed reasonable that the public prosecutor should suspect the two attorneys (enjoying their clients' confidence as opposed to court-appointed defence counsellors whom the alleged terrorists reject) who were in the consulting cell with their clients Meyer and Vogel.

Without the presence of these attorneys, the prisoners would have been inaccessible to their outside accomplices.

This brings to mind the springing from jail of Andreas Baader eight years ago, which was only possible because Baader's attorney Horst Mahler arranged for the defendant to be "taken out."

But, pending evidence, this must be treated as conjecture — especially since terrorists' attorneys are pre-judged and condemned by the public and thus exposed to the danger of bias by the courts.

The question of responsibility must be directed at Berlin's Justice Senator Jürgen Baumann. The liberal reformer of the penal code is an idealist rather than a practitioner, as Hamburg's Justice Senator Klug was, and like Werner Maihofer, a fellow party member, now Bonn Minister of the Interior.

But Herr Baumann — as opposed to Werner Maihofer — need not be ashamed of his liberal avowals, for which he is now being jeeringly blamed by law and order protagonists.

Professor Baumann has always said that we must beware of new laws against terrorism and that "we must not intolerably curtail the liberties of all for the sake of minor successes."

He has also said that he does not want to enter Berlin's history of justice as a builder of fortresses. But this referred only to security measures in criminal courts and not to prisons.

And indeed, neither searches nor contact bans, nor any of the other anti-terror laws were needed to prevent the jailbreak of Till Meyer. The application of the old laws would have been enough.

This was all the more necessary as there were indications recently that attacks on prisons were impending.

Incidentally, it is absurd to act as if our trial and detention laws prior to the anti-terror legislation would have enabled any gangster to get into prisons toting a submachine gun and free his accomplices.

Professor Baumann need not hang his

Continued on page 5

■ GDR

# Consumer goods still major issue for GDR leaders

In the current programme of the East Berlin cabaret *Die Distel* there is a number in which tourists bound for a holiday destination in the East bloc are told: "This country is in the process of developing into a gigantic industrial power. However, you could find that certain consumer goods are not available." To which a tourist replies: "Well, we'll feel quite at home then."

The general dissatisfaction with the goods consumer shortage in the German Democratic Republic is heightened every evening when East Germans watch West German TV and compare their standard of living.

The leadership of the Socialist Unity arty (SED) is aware of the problem and spent most of its recent 8th congress of the party central committee discussing ways of solving it.

When SED leader Erich Honecker came to power seven years ago, he promised to do more for the people than his predecessor Walter Ulbricht.

In the first years in office he was able to keep this pledge. The standard of living in the GDR rose.

Then came the worldwide economic slump and the huge increases in oil and raw material prices. The people of the GDR had by then acquired a taste for consumption and disillusionment set in.

The SED leadership under Honecker cast about for solutions. "Intershops" where Western goods can be bought with Western currencies were opened to citizens.

In doing this the leaders hoped to achieve two things: appease GDR citizens wanting Western quality goods and create an additional source of foreign currency.

This happened, but at the same time it annoyed the majority of GDR citizens who did not have Western currency. To appease these citizens, more luxury goods shops, where Western goods could be bought at high prices with GDR currency, were opened.

Even this move, though well-meant, brought dissatisfaction. People complained that the two class society had now been replaced by a three class society: the holders of Western currency, high earners and normal earners.

Envy and hatred began to spread their tentacles. The authorities got increasing numbers of letters of complaint. More and more awkward questions were asked at public meetings. There were even demands at some employees' meetings that part of wages should be paid in Western currency. And a fair in Wittenberge ended recently with demands that the excessively expensive luxury goods shops should be closed down.

Honecker's effort to grant at least some of the consumers' wishes and thereby ease dissatisfaction has been attacked, not only by those who feel they are worse off than richer acquaintances, but also by ideologues.

Wolfgang Harich, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in 1957 for the formation of a conspiracy hostile to the state, declared: "The basic formula of socialism is 'to each according to his work' and not to each according to whether he has relatives in the Federal Republic of Germany who send him deutschemarks. The West has created needs which we in the GDR should beware of."

These problems and the countless rumours that Honecker's position had weakened meant the 8th congress of the party's central committee was awaited eagerly. However the Politbüro report and the long published speeches have shown that Henecker is still number one. Perhaps he cannot command automatic Politbüro support as easily as in the past, but he still has the final say. This means the present course of consumer socialism will be pursued. The risks of any alternative course would be far greater.

People in the GDR will in future have to live with the contradiction between the pure teaching of the classless society and the reality of three classes.

The SED leadership has, however, promised to give priority to better supplies of consumer goods. The production of meat and vegetables is to be increased, as is that of spare parts.

The SED also wants to increase the number of export products. The fact that many GDR goods cannot find Western markets has been an obstacle to plans for more barter deals.

All this is to be done by pushing up production figures. Wages will be more closely tied to production, something which had proved an effective material and moral incentive to increased productivity, Honecker said.

Prime Minister Stoph stressed the need for more discipline: "Shoddy work, the squandering of labour and idling are incompatible with the honour of the worker and socialist morality."

The SED leadership has announced an extensive publicity campaign to persuade all citizens that it is on the right course. New forms of discussion between politicians and people are to be introduced, replacing those in which there was little room for discussion.

The SED leadership is hardly thinking of liberal freedom of expression here. This would mean the GDR government would have to release the large numbers of its critics in prison. What the SED has in mind is to explain problems and their causes more clearly to the people, to appeal to reason and good sense.

Foreign affairs play only a subsidiary role compared to this question, which is fundamentally important for the GDR leadership. There were no new moves or significant shifts of emphasis in foreign policy.

There is also unlikely to be any breakthrough in intra-German relations in the foreseeable future. The question of Berlin was not even mentioned in the published part of Honecker's speech. This would seem to support Foreign Minister Genscher's view that there is not going to be a Berlin crisis in the near future.

The consumer goods problems are so pressing that they continue to cry out for cabaret treatment and to force the GDR government to tread softly in foreign affairs. *Liselotte Müller*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 30 May 1978)

# Writers told: 'Keep debate in family'

Bremer Nachrichten

The GDR Writers' Association is obviously trying to maintain contacts with authors who are critical of the state's cultural policies.

At the same time the association is severely critical of the behaviour of these writers since Wolf Biermann was deprived of his citizenship. It has called upon all members to give clear statements of support for SED policies.

This is the impression observers in East Berlin get from Writers' Association vice-president Hermann Kant's speech to the 8th East German writers' conference in East Berlin, published in the GDR press recently.

Kant, who takes over as president from Anna Seghers, retiring for health reasons, called upon critical authors not to conduct the discussion in the Western media. If there was anything to be worked out it should be done within the Writers' Association and not in "the media of the Occident."

Those writers who signed the protest at Biermann's expatriation in 1976 are in Kant's view, outnumbered by a clear majority in the Writers' Association.

He said it was a great mistake to believe that in the long run the majority of members could be prevented from "making literature, socialist literature, literature in the colours of the German Democratic Republic."

Referring to the many former GDR writers who had moved to the West, Kant said this did not mean GDR literature would dry up.

Kant severely criticised remarks by Rolf Schneider published in a newspaper in this country. He mentioned the work of other "apostate" writers such as Christa Wolf, Stefan Heym and Jurek Becker, thus acknowledging that their work was important for the GDR. Several of these well-known authors were either not allowed to or did not want to attend the East Berlin Writers' Conference.

GDR writer Stefan Hermlin criticised the GDR's official policy on literature at the conference. He said he had read a newspaper article saying that the GDR writers should be regarded as a team. He considered this "an unfortunate phrase" because writers rarely held the same views.

A writer had to know his origins and the tradition in which he was writing if he was to take up position in the struggles of the time.

"I am a late bourgeois writer — as a writer, what else could I be?"

The dispute about what was "feasible" *(machbar)* was one of the most vital issues, but a matter for politicians. Hermlin said he was not and could not be a politician. It was the privilege of writers to dream of the unattainable and of the rational to ridicule them.

Hermann Kant was elected president of the Writers' Association on May 31.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 1 June 1978)

# Protestant synod show of faith by 50,000

The Protestant Church synod met in Leipzig in the German Democratic Republic recently, the first meeting since the historic all-German meeting of 1954.

In Stuttgart the fourth meeting of parish representatives was held. Both the Leipzig and the Stuttgart gatherings were attended by about 50,000 people.

At a meeting of the Land Synod, Hanover bishop D.Eduard Lohse said the time had come when it was possible to talk of piety again. After years in which criticism had shattered many forms of Christian life, piety was no longer an obstacle to understanding. The more people's worries and problems grew, the more they turned to the church for counsel and solace he said.

Was it merely worries and problems that made so many people attend the meetings in the Saxon and Swabian metropoles?

Certainly they were not the only reasons. This applies strongly to the meeting of parish representatives in Stuttgart. It was a conference in which strength of faith was powerfully affirmed. But although rousing and uplifting, it did not completely escape the danger of overemphasis on the privacy of belief.

Counsel and advice came from above and was perhaps too didactic. There was little dialogue. The decision of the church leadership to avoid confrontation made one prick up one's ears. Yet tough talking really did not seem to be necessary in a Land in which the church parliament now counts Protestants among its members after the preliminary elections.

With some exceptions, there had been a conversion from the Law to the Gospels since the last meeting in Dortmund last year. Pietism, and above all Württemburgian pietism, can afford to state its case at the German Protestant conference in Nuremberg in 1979. There was a noticeable lack of tension in relations between the meeting of parish representatives and the church conference.

There was also detente at Leipzig, detente between the East German church and the state. When as a result of the division of Germany it became clear that all-German conferences would no longer be possible, the leaders of the Saxon church drew their conclusions and concentrated on congresses. Lay preachers were taught.

The church conference was only possible as a result of a large meeting of church workers. This had looked likely as a result of talks between church and state representatives at the beginning of March. It then took on a dynamism of its own which even infected state authorities.

It is a remarkable thing that at this conference Christians, who had travelled to Leipzig in special trains, could talk of the role of the church within socialism fearlessly and openly.

There were many young people among the 50,000 who attended. The world of the jeans culture is full of tenderness here and in the GDR. On both sides of the borders young people are asking Christians how they can escape the bonds of indoctrination and find answers to their problems. They want to feel they belong to a community in which piety is synonymous with action and involvement.

The Leipzig Christians were better prepared for these young people than those in Stuttgart. *Hans Pflästerer*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 4 June 1978)



■ PRESS

# 'Alternative' papers fuel debate on community coverage

The rapid growth of "alternative" newspapers was debated at the Munich meeting of the German Society for Journalism and Communication.

The topic was how to improve local communication.

One speaker after reading the Munich alternative paper *Blatt*, asked: "Are there only lunatics among the young generation of this town? When you read it, you get the impression it is only intended for anarchists, political fanatics and vegetarians with a predilection for organic manure?"

But the speaker was the only severe critic.

For many citizens even today local comunication means reading the local supplement in their newspaper and talking to friends, neighbours and colleagues. Radio and television in West Germany are supra-regional. They do not consider it their function to provide services for individuals or local groups.

However, the needs of these groups have to be expressed. Consciousness of them has grown in the last few years. Such questions as protection of the environment, restoration of old buildings, educational problems and social facilities are dealt with in the media as general phenomena but not as specific local cases.

Berlin communications scientist Ulrich Paetzold spelt out to the conference the result of this neglect: today there are alternative papers with a regular circulation of 150,000.

Then there are the various local papers for areas of towns, alternative cultural magazines and group information sheets. In other words, a large number of young people ready only these alternative newspapers and quite deliberately renounce whole areas of social and political communication.

Media scientists and journalists agreed on this. Journalists were thinly represented at the congress — only 25 of 100 local journalists invited turned up. None of the 150 local authority public relations departments invited turned up.

There was also general agreement on Professor Ulrich Saxer's statement that communication experts had not paid as much attention in their research to local communication as the subject merited. The empirical work done to date was insufficient.

This unanimity did not make the discussion easier. Journalists accused media scientists of having neglected local journalism.

It was only natural that the most impressive talk on local journalism and the needs of the reader was by a journalist, Hans-Joachim Schlüter, local news editor of the *Stuttgarter Nachrichten*.

He did not blame third parties for the miserable state of local journalism, he blamed the journalists themselves. He accused them of unwillingness to take further training courses, a tendency to be set in their ways and of having inferiority complexes.

Schlüter added that the conditions under which many local reporters worked prevented them from doing the kind of job he would like to see. He gave his view of a journalism which would satisfy the individual reader's needs.

There has to be a move away from the present system of only dealing with issues when a specific occasion arises. This means whole areas are ignored.

Schlüter's views were confirmed by Dieter Golombek, who has been working on new possibilities for local journalism in the Central Office for Political Education for years. In seminars he has been trying to persuade journalists to put his and Schlüter's ideas into practice. Those attending the congress, apart from discussing new forms of local communication, had the chance to learn about developments abroad. The situation in West Germany seems almost prehistoric in comparison.

Media people from Holland, Sweden, Canada, the USA and Italy spoke of new methods of local communication via electronic media. Radio and television stations and video groups in these countries have reached a level we are light years away from in this country.

These local media have had phenomenal success because camera and microphone can deal with problems far more effectively and directly. But this success also brings problems. There are technical and content limits to the ambition of video groups here and elsewhere to deal with problems "uncensored."

However, the talks by Michael Barrett, project director of a British citizens' television scheme, and Laura Sky of the Canadian National Film Board showed that the interests of those directly affected and of passive viewers could be reconciled.

At the same time as the Munich congress, there was a separate meeting of reporters on alternative papers and magazines attended by more than 150. The gap between traditional and alternative media is aptly illustrated by the fact that these groups did not meet and compare notes. *Karl-Otto Saur*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 31 May 1978)

Continued from page 3

head. As was virtually predictable, he stumbled over the inadequacy of the administration and not of his principles.

This is where he differs from Maihofer, who has abandoned the principles with which he assumed office.

Spiritually, Maihofer capitulated in the face of his adversaries.

The Minister, who, after the fact, is trying to cover up for the illegal practices of his border police because he was unable to prevent them, must accept the accusation of having betrayed his principles. The liberal Baumann, on the other hand, who did not succeed in implementing the feasible, can at best be accused of naiveté.

Perhaps this is a reason for resignation; but if he resign he can do so with a clear conscience. *Hans Schueler*

(Die Zeit, 2 June 1978)

# SPD's last daily looks for capital injection

The SPD-owned *Hamburger Morgenpost*, the last daily in the once proud SPD press empire, is in financial trouble.

The SPD is looking round for partners to help put the popular newspaper back on a sound financial footing.

SPD secretary Egon Bahr and new party treasurer Friedrich Halstenberg have been talking, (not negotiating) with potential partners over the past few days in Hamburg. Reports indicate that the SPD is most interested in partnership with the DuMont Schauberg Verlag in Cologne, which publishes the *Express* and the *Kölner Stadtanzeiger*, or with Madsack of Hanover, in which the SPD has shares.

*Der Spiegel* had already indicated that it is not interested in a partnership. However, director Hans Detlev Becker did say that the Spiegel Verlag would be interested in "a new form of publication" if other publishers were brought in.

There is considerable unease among *Morgenpost* reporters with all the rumour and speculation flying about. They fear that if outside publishers buy shares in the paper it could mean the beginning of the end, with the SPD pulling out of the daily newspaper business altogether.

The reporters' worries are well-founded. At the beginning of the 60s, the *Morgenpost*, with a circulation of 400,000 was one of many SPD newspapers. Internal quarrels, changes at editorial level and too much interference from SPD bosses led to a reduction of the quality of the paper over the years.

The *Morgenpost* now has a circulation of 240,000 in the Hamburg region. Editor-in-chief Conrad Ahlers who took over the post for reasons of party necessity rather than out of enthusiasm has managed only to stop the steady drop in circulation over the last few months.

In Hamburg itself, the sales of the paper are static, though it has been selling very well in Bremen, where a new regional issue was recently brought out. What causes the SPD its biggest headaches is the precarious economic position of Auer-Druck, the printers, who always seem to be in the red.

*Thomas Wolgast.*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 27 May 1978)

# Technical press celebrates medium's coming of age

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG

The annual congress of the technical press in Mainz recently underlined that the number of influential people who have recognised its importance within the media is growing.

The technical press has become of increasing interest since social research findings in the early 70s underlined the importance of target groups in mass communication.

Continuing efforts to further rationalise communication, including that of marketing and advertising, have meant that not only industry but also official and political bodies attach increasing importance to the influence of the technical press and its ability to reach a wide range of groups.

Last year, Dr. Bernhard Vogel, Prime Minister of the Rhineland-Palatinate and then President of the Bundesrat, praised the "admirable commitment of the technical press" and stressed the achievements of technical publishers "in spite of the obstacles created by politicians and the overall economic situation."

This year Vogel spoke of the contribution technical publishers made in science, technology, industry, education and vocational further education in an age characterised by dramatic increases in knowledge.

The Bonn political scene was represented at the congress by senior officials from the ministries of the Interior, Economic Affairs and Research and by officials of the Federal Press Office.

Professor Hans-Peter Bull, federal commissioner for protection against the abuse of computerised data, explained the effects this Act would have on the technical press in the editorial, advertising and distribution departments.

Director E. Danke from the Federal Post Office spoke on cooperation between the technical press and the Post Office in the new media and on the dissemination of technical information via visual display units.

Some 30 technical publishers have signed contracts to cooperate in private experiments with visual display units.

Dr. I. Resch, a Munich publisher, said the government's programme for the development of information and documentation and a network of computerised technical information systems now being set made it clear that only technical publishers, libraries and technical information centres working together could guarantee an ideal flow of information. Libraries and technical information centres alone could not do so.

A panel discussion on whether market research for technical magazines was worth the expense concluded that media analyses for these magazines could not use the methods used for the mass media. The more specific the target group, the less appropriate were the methods of mass market analysis.

However, the technical press was prepared to discuss ways of improving target-group analyses with representatives of advertising agencies and market research specialists.

This year for the first time an annual report, *Fachpresse 78*, was produced, published by the association of German magazine publishers. It contains detailed information on various technical press working groups, the information and documentation programme, telecommunications and official statistics on the technical press. *Hans Grossmann*

(Handelsblatt, 31 May 1978)

■ INVESTMENT

# Bonn and Cameroon probe cooperation prospects

Diminished growth in real terms, inflation of at least 12 per cent, economic integration problems, excessive dependence on a few agricultural exports, industry concentrated on a small range of products and an exceedingly slow administration that is the bane of foreign investors mark Cameroon as a typical African developing country.

But its political stability, economic potential and liberal attitude towards foreign investors distinguish it from many other African states.

President Ahmadou Ahidjo, in office since independence in 1960, has a firm grip on the country through his party *Union Nationale Camerounaise* (UNC).

Officially bilingual, the United Cameroon Republic is distancing itself from the francophone zone.

While relations with neighbouring countries are marked by correct aloofness, domestic policy, due to tribal problems, embraces the principle of regional balance.

Although the country has oil deposits, no great hopes are pinned on them as a source of revenue. But even so, the first tanker left for a French refinery at the beginning of the year. An oil refinery near Victoria is planned.

The aluminium factory Edea still processes bauxite imported from Guinea because Cameroon lacks the infrastructure for exploiting its own considerable bauxite deposits.

Oil and gas prospecting along the coast and Lake Chad is in progress. But special emphasis is placed on uranium prospecting in the southeast and north. Iron ore has been found in the vicinity of Kribi on the coast.

Industrialisation is progressing slowly, with Cameron's interest centering on more private initiative, both domestic and foreign.

The economic ideal can best be summed up as planned liberalism, with development being based on national resources.

One of the major aims of the present five-year plan (1 July 1976 to 30 June 1981) is the elimination of excessive dependence on export earnings from a small range of commodities such as coffee, cocoa and cotton.

A number of cooperation proposals indicate the aims of the investment and development policy worked out recently by Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Germany.

This is to serve as a basis for discussions on German-Cameroon economic cooperation in Bonn from 29 May to 7 June 1978.

The Cameroon delegation will be headed by Prime Minister Paul Biya and Economic Affairs Minister Youssoufa Daouda.

Among the proposals is an industrial complex for manufacturing palm oil products (oil mill, refinery and margarine factory).

Negotiations with the German Walter Rau group have been on for some time but the deal is not yet ready to be signed.

Other projects concern development of the fruit and vegetable canning industry. Studies have also been done on the manufacturing of tomato paste and the marketing of fresh fruit, mainly pineapples. Sources say French investors have shown interest.

A cooperation proposal for meat processing goes back to an old project that was unsatisfactory in a first attempt. This would involve a new concept for the meat processing factory by *Société Camerounaise de Conserverie et de Viande* (Cocamco) in Maroua and the establishment of a company processing the products in northern Cameroon.

These projects have met with money and supply problems. Due to higher livestock prices in Chad and Nigeria, suppliers opted to sell there.

The marketing of tinned goods also caused problems.

Tenders have been filed for chicken farming and animal feed production.

Among the projects for which the government wants investors are processing plants for rubber and the manufacture of technical rubber products such as gaskets, conveyor belts and tyres.

Blueprints for repair centres and the manufacture like screws, fittings and locks are ready.

More in keeping with local raw materials is the proposed integrated timber industry complex.

*Les Contreplaques du Cameroun* (Cocam), in which a Swiss group and *Société Nationale d'Investissement* (SNI) hold a 40 per cent equity each, has reached a concrete stage.

Incidentally, SNI holds equities in more than 60 companies in a wide range of activities. Organisationally, it falls under the Economic Affairs Ministry and coordinates the selection of projects with the Ministry.

Private German investment reached DM39.8 million by 1977. DM7.7 million are accounted for by *Deutsche Entwicklungsgesellschaft* (DEG), the rest being investments from private companies.

These include *Hansen & Söhne (Hobum Afrika)* who have a stake in the Douala sacking factory.

DEG, together with the governments of Cameroon and Chad and French companies, has a stake in *Cotonnière Industrielle du Cameroun* (Cicam) in Douala and Garoua. Expansion is planned.

The Hamburg *Unimar-Seetransport GmbH* has an equity in the Cameroon Shipping Lines, established in 1974.

Before that freight to and from Cameroon was carried by foreign flag vessels.

The line now owns four vessels and has two on charter. It is expected that two semi-container vessels will be ordered during the conference in Germany.

A delicate issue is the fertiliser factory erected in Doula by *Klöckner-Industrieanlagen*, which has not begun production due to financial and marketing problems.

There are indications that Bonn capital aid will be needed to get the stranded project off the ground.

The *Bernhard Rothfos* group is already involved in the coffee business.

A plant to be built in Douala is to produce caffeine-free coffee and is likely to have better market chances than previous projects for conventional instant coffee.

Mineral water production numbers among the old projects resurrected from time to time.

All these are medium-sized plans that have to be fitted into the planning and market structure.

Cameroon's wooing of German investors is also intended to balance the traditionally heavy French involvement.

Investment conditions are better than in many other African countries, taxation for corporate profits being 33 per cent and thus rather moderate compared with francophone Africa.

Labour contracts are subject to laws governing minimum wages, stipulating a 40-hour week and a minimum three-month employment. Social security payments amount to about 15 per cent of wages.

There is a investment promotion programme with a range of benefits.

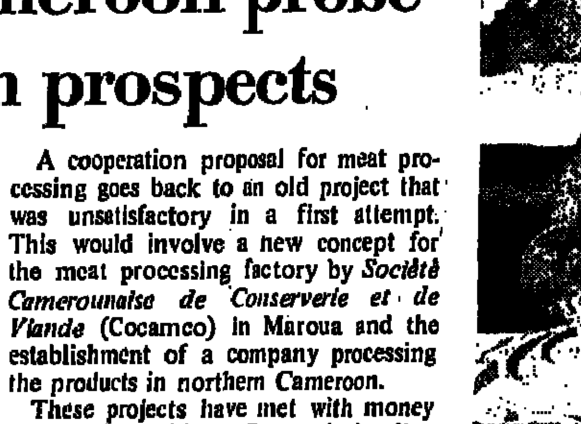
German capital aid, DM272 million by the end of 1977, is concentrated on infrastructure projects, primarily roads and railways, water supply and harbour construction. Some 50 advisers work in Cameroon under the technical aid programme.

One of the major bugbears is transport. Tracks are mostly old and there is a shortage of rolling stock.

The Douala-Jaunde line is now being modernised, and a surfaced road to Chad is nearing completion.

The Doula harbour capacity (Doula handles 90 per cent of Cameroon's foreign trade) is rapidly proving inadequate. Its present capacity of two million tons of cargo a year will have to be doubled by 1986. Total costs are estimated at DM270 million, of which DM192 million must be paid in foreign exchange. Financing has been secured through an international consortium.

*Gerd Janssen*
(Handelsblatt, 26 May 1978)



Minister of Finance Hans Matthöfer makes a point in conversation with M. Paul Biya, Prime Minister of Cameroon, during his visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.
(Photo: Bundesbildstelle)



# Hauff initials agreement with Egypt

The Federal Republic of Germany and Egypt want to formalise their cooperation in research and technology and Bonn Research Minister Volker Hauff and his Egyptian opposite number Kamal Helmi initialled an agreement on this on 18 May.

The agreement, which provides a framework for projects in science and industry, has to be approved by the Bonn Cabinet before coming into force.

The major areas of German-Egyptian cooperation in research and technology concern solar energy, desalination and biotechnology.

President Sadat and Prime Minister Salim stressed the importance of the agreement for the links between the two countries.

After initialling the agreement, Herr Hauff said that it would open up new chances for German industry, particularly if industry was prepared to cooperate with Egypt as a partner.

Herr Hauff said Egypt had already proved an increasingly attractive market for the transfer of technology, especially in the field of energy research.

At the beginning of his visit to the Middle East, the Minister opened a solar energy plant in Cairo on 16 May. The plant will be tested by German and Egyptian scientists over the next three years.

Herr Hauff went on from Egypt to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. dpa
(Der Tagesspiegel, 19 May 1978)



■ ENERGY

# New generation cleans up coal's market strategy



The post-war history of German anthracite mining is marked by ups and downs but the new generation in the boardrooms has brought in a fresh approach, governing itself more by sales opportunities than by production capacities.

When reconstruction began after World War Two, demand was such that the miners were unable to produce enough. This was followed by the oil era, which triggered the decline of coal.

Then came the oil crisis and demand once more far outstripped supply. But as the oil market returned to normal, coal stockpiles formed.

But the latest federal and state support measures for the industry are reminiscent of the Ruhr area's black days before the oil shock.

Such reminiscences, though obvious, are wrong. The boards of the mining companies that remain have learned their lessons from the past. They no longer set themselves output quotas, standing by them come what may.

Below ground in the mine shafts the miner of yore has been replaced by the engineer in charge of machinery; above ground the manager has supplanted the mine foreman.

But changes in the coal mining industry are traditionally much less swift than in other branches. Traditions die hard.

The industry of today depends primarily on three groups of buyers, and all of them have to be wooed in concerted marketing campaigns.

In terms of quantities bought, power plants head the list. More than one-third of Germany's coal output of about 90 million tons a year is turned into electricity.

Recently, the mining industry and power stations concluded a ten-year agreement on quantities of coal to be supplied. On expiry of the agreement in the late 80s the power stations will still need more than 30 million tons a year if the stations planned or under construction are to be adequately supplied.

If the building of nucelar power stations meets with as much resistance in future as it has up to now, it is virtually certain that more coal power stations will be built in the next few years. And this means an increased demand for coal.

But projections based on power station capacities are risky. We still have a considerable number of technically obsolete coal power stations which are bound to be replaced by larger and considerably more economical installations. This means coal requirements per kw/h will be diminishing.

To safeguard the domestic electricity supply from political problems emanating from the oil-producing countries, any German government will insist that, notwithstanding the cost advantages of oil and gas-operated power stations, coal be used as a source of electricity. And this safety measure has its price — as electricity consumers know from the extra item in their bill known as "coal pfennig" (a levy to cover government subsidies for the coal industry).

Next in line as a major buyer of coal is the iron and steel industry. This industry has been plagued by massive sales problems which induced the public sector to grant additional subsidies for coal.

The malaise in the steel industry is due to a prolonged crisis, and there is still no end in sight.

Coal producers believe the steel crisis is structural rather than economic. Accordingly, it is not expected that German steel output will reach former figures for some time.

In an effort to adapt to this situation, the Ruhr coal industry is drastically reducing its coking capacity.

As opposed to the power industry, coal enjoys a particular position in the steel sector because it cannot (as yet) be replaced by other energy sources.

Coal requirements per ton of steel have of course diminished; but even so, coke is essential.

The German anthracite industry, compared with that of other countries, has the advantage of top quality coke. This is so much in demand that it is not only sold to Western Europe's steel industry but finds its way to Japan.

Although coke prices have remained remarkably stable on world markets despite the steel crisis, the German mining industry has to put up with growing losses because coke prices are quoted in dollars. Only for coke supplied to the German steel industry is this difference offset by subsidies. The third major buyer are private householders. But since coke now plays only a minor role in the heating of homes, this sector is primarily made up of industry's boiler coal requirements. Sales have continuously diminished due to the advance of oil-fired heating. The mining industry is of course trying to preserve as much as possible of the market — not only through new technologies but also by a promotion campaign aimed at enlarging the number of coal consumers. Prospects are not bad.

Should the coal industry's rather realistic expectations materialise, it is likely that sales will not only retain their present level but might even increase.

To this end, the mining industry — assisted by subsidies — has stepped up its investment.

For one thing, it is trying to explore new deposits to sustain today's output over an extended period. For another, it is investing in streamlining and automation.

Only increased output per shift can compensate for constant cost increases due to the high labour intensity of the industry.

Price increases are out of the question since they would make coal even less competitive against oil.

If the coal industry succeeds in sustaining its present pragmatic and market-oriented policy, its advertising slogan "Energy with a Future" might well come true.

*Peter Odrich*
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 May 1978)

**Projected primary energy consumption in the Fed. Rep. of Germany**

In millions of tons of anthracite equivalent

| | 1977 | 1985 | 1990 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 369,3 | 462,5 | 530 |
| Other | 9,6 | 12 | 16,2 |
| Nuclear energy | 11,7 | 49,9 | 83,2 |
| Lignite | 35 | 35,3 | 35,4 |
| Coal | 65,5 | 74,6 | 80,1 |
| Oil | 192,5 | 222,9 | 225,6 |
| Natural gas | 55 | 67,8 | 89,5 |

Figures for 1985 and 1990 are from the December 1977 revision of the Federal energy programme

Source: Ruhrgas AG

# Coal mines getting ready for the post-oil energy era

Only five years ago, the 33-million-ton coal stockpile would have been a nightmare for the politicians of Bonn, Northrhine-Westphalia and the Saarland.

The German taxpayer will have to pay more than DM 5,000 million this year to keep the mining business out of the red.

But experts estimate that demand will outstrip supply by the year 2000, when German industry will be forced to import between 15 and 20 million tons annually.

Says Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff: "We are already in the transition period to a post-oil era although oil production and consumption are still rising.

"In a decade — or perhaps earlier — we shall be faced with an energy shortage although we have for years had an excess of energy and might continue to have it for a few more years."

There are two reasons why there is now an excess of coal:

- Due to the general economic malaise, energy consumption has been falling since 1975;
- Germany's steel industry, traditionally the largest consumer of coal, has faced the worst crisis since the war.

As a result, production capacities and sales were 15 millions tons apart in 1977. And since other nations have the same problems, competition on world markets is deadly.

Coke prices that would meet production costs would have to be DM40 to DM50 per ton above market prices. For power station coal, production costs are DM 90 per ton higher than coal offered by foreign producers.

This cost discrepancy is not only due to some competitors (like America) having vast open-face mines while German coal has to be mined deep underground.

Another American advantage is the dollar weakness, completely out of keeping with the real difference in buying power. This advantage could diminish if the dollar continues to rise.

But according to Economic Affairs Minister Lambsdorff it would be unrealistic to expect an end of the malaise before the early 80s.

To rehabilitate the mining industry — done once before in the late 60s under Economic Affairs Minister Karl Schiller — and secure future sources of energy, Bonn and the coal-producing Länder Northrhine-Westphalia and Saarland are dipping deep into the till.

At the end of April and in mid-May the two Länder, with the Bonn Government, decided to administer additional booster shots.

Subsidies to facilitate the production of coke and blast furnace coal and to promote sales to the iron and steel industry in areas removed from the mines were increased from DM 365.8 million to DM 679.8 million.

"Combined with tax relief, import restrictions, levies on heating oil and restrictions on the use of oil and gas in the power industry — all of which costs money — we have not only helped the German coal industry but also demonstrated the importance we attach to anthracite in our energy policy," said Graf Lambsdorff in explaining the massive subsidies.

But Bonn and the Land governments are neither prepared nor able to dip even deeper into the till.

"Additional state assistance would only be feasible if business, too, were to step up its efforts to reduce costs," Herr Lambsdorff said.

He stressed that it would be economically risky to solve the problems of the coal mining industry solely with public funds when the world-wide economic slump and the situation on the foreign exchange markets have hit many other industries equally hard.

The mining industry must make efforts of its own — especially as the industry has a particularly close-knit social security network that would preclude undue hardships.

The stick and carrot method has had its effect.

Says a spokesman of the German Anthracite Mining Association: "The mining companies will make an all-out effort to improve the competitiveness of domestic anthracite in such a manner that it will be equal to its long-term role in our energy policy."

*Rainer Sachadae*
(Deutsche Zeitung, 26 May 1978)

■ TECHNOLOGY

# Deutsches Museum comes alive at the touch of a button

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

Man must endeavour to master technology in order not to become its slave, President Walter Scheel said in his address to mark the 75th anniversary of Munich's Deutsches Museum.

Words of this kind spring to mind more or less automatically after a tour of the museum's countless items of equipment and machinery, scale models and full-size exhibits designed to illustrate scientific and technological progress from the earliest days of civilisation.

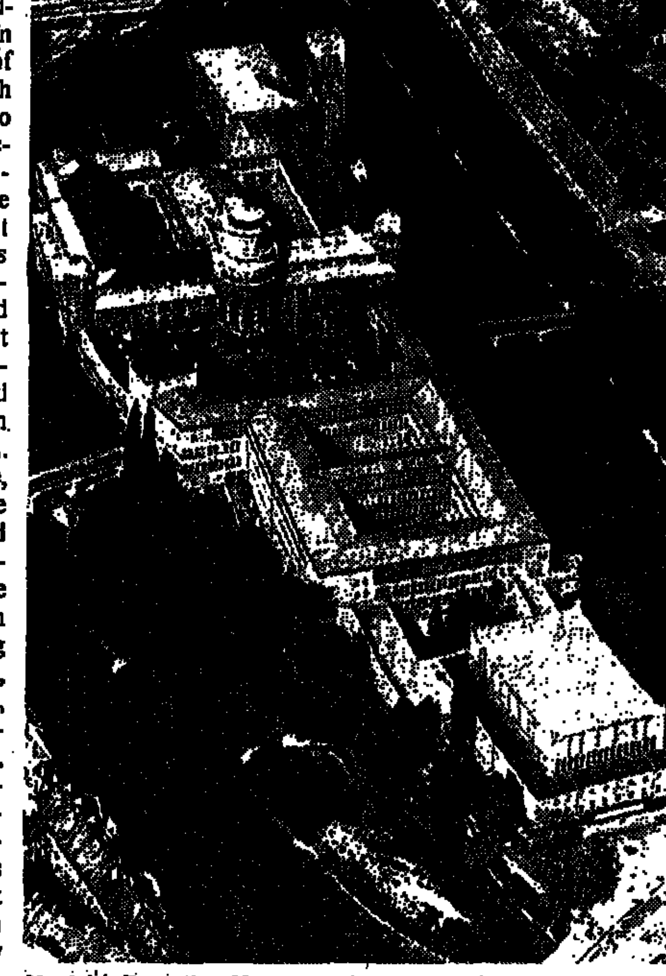
In 1925 when the museum was rebuilt on its present site, an island in the Isar river, Max Planck, as chairman of the board of governors, said:

"The Deutsches Museum is based on the idea of the extremely important part played in civilisation by the cross-fertilisation of science and technology."

Günther Gottmann, the curator, agrees. "The history of science and technology as part of the history of civilisation: this is our foremost and specific educational role.

"Any number of bodies deal with scientific and technological subjects, with educational and psychological development and the implementation of scientific curricula and further education courses.

"We neither need nor are able to compete with them in these sectors. But they are all urgently on the lookout and gratefully accept what we do have to offer: a portrayal of the history of science and technology as a groundwork to the understanding of the modern era." A museum of technology in which exhibits testify to their place in history naturally conveys an abundance of information. It renews or extends the knowledge acquired at school and subsequently. It puts across its message objectively and with the utmost in scientific precision. Visitors can see, hear and feel the actual exhibits and gain a direct impression. There are roughly 30 main sections, including mining, engines, shipping, aviation, space research, road- and bridge-building, physics, telecommunications, photography and astronomy. Physics is one of the most popular, exceeded in popularity only by the mining, motoring and railway departments. It probably owes its popularity to its accessibility.



Munich's Deutsches Museum: science and technology meet on a wooded island (Photo: dpa/freig. Reg. Oberbayern Nr. 6 4/23367)

There are no signs proclaiming: "Please do not touch." Visitors are encouraged to find out for themselves how the exhibits work. In ten years the number of visitors has doubled and since the opening of a special physics show it has quadrupled.

In this special show the laws of physics are demonstrated by experiments that visitors themselves can start. They read instruments, push buttons and launch experiments.

Schoolchildren (1,000 a day on average), apprentices, students, participants in further education courses and others are only too happy to do so.

But a serious museum does more than merely exhibit. Collection and restoration are accompanied by scientific and historical evaluation.

In comparison with other museums, museums of science and technology have more recent exhibits as a rule. There are few traces of early technology but any number of reminders of the more recent past.

One of the problems museums face is keeping pace with the headlong expansion of technology. They usually have a limited budget to buy material, limited space in which to exhibit it and an expensive construction programme.

To mark the 75th anniversary of the Munich museum, the foundation stone of a new aviation and space research hall was laid. Space research exhibits are coming in briskly.

The Deutsches Museum is also in the process of retrieving its "treasure trove" – exhibits kept in the cellar for lack of storage space and hitherto accessible only to research workers.

The details of all items in stock are to be fed into a computer and catalogues will be printed. Only 15,000 or so of a total of 60,000 items are currently on exhibition.

Since last year the museum has has also published a magazine for the public. *Kultur & Technik* features individual sections in illustrated articles.

The first issue, published last September, features Nicolas Joseph Cugnot's steam car, the ancestor of all automobiles, and the Bachem Natter, a manned missile aircraft dating back to World Wart War Two.

The journal is a quarterly printed on art paper and including first-rate reproductions from library exhibits covering the late 15th to late 18th centuries.

The hard work of the museum and its staff of 360 is appreciated: last year an average 18,000 visitors came daily, paying 1.6 million marks at the turnstiles.

The museum has only DM70,000 a year to spend on new exhibits. But industrial donors are extremely generous.

The help to ensure, the Scientific Research Association says, that many items are saved from the scrapyard "which later, in retrospect, will prove to have been turning points in technological development."

*Gerhard Taube*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 28 May 1978)

# New Flying Fish tests its aerodynamic fins

The X 114 project engineers at Rheinflugzeugbau in Mönchengladbach, a VFW-Fokker subsidiary, are satisfied with flight trials of their new aircraft, dubbed the Flying Fish.

A few teething troubles remain. Aerodynamic burrs must be cleaned off and water hammer at take-off reduced by fixing hydrofoils to the fuselage.

After conversion final flight trials are to be held, probably next spring, over the Baltic near Eckernförde, scene of previous trials.

The X 114, developed for the Bonn Defence Ministry, is built mainly of stable but flexible tubes of glass and carbon fibre reinforced plastic.

It weighs 1,700kg (3,740lb) at take-off and has a 200 DIN hp engine. It takes six passengers and is a real fuel miser, like its single-seater prototype predecessor, the X 113.

The saving comes from a principle discovered by the brilliant German American aerodynamic engineer Alexander Lippisch.

When skimming the water, with the belly of the craft just a few inches above the waves, the X 114 benefits from a cushion of air that provides uplift between the water and the wings.

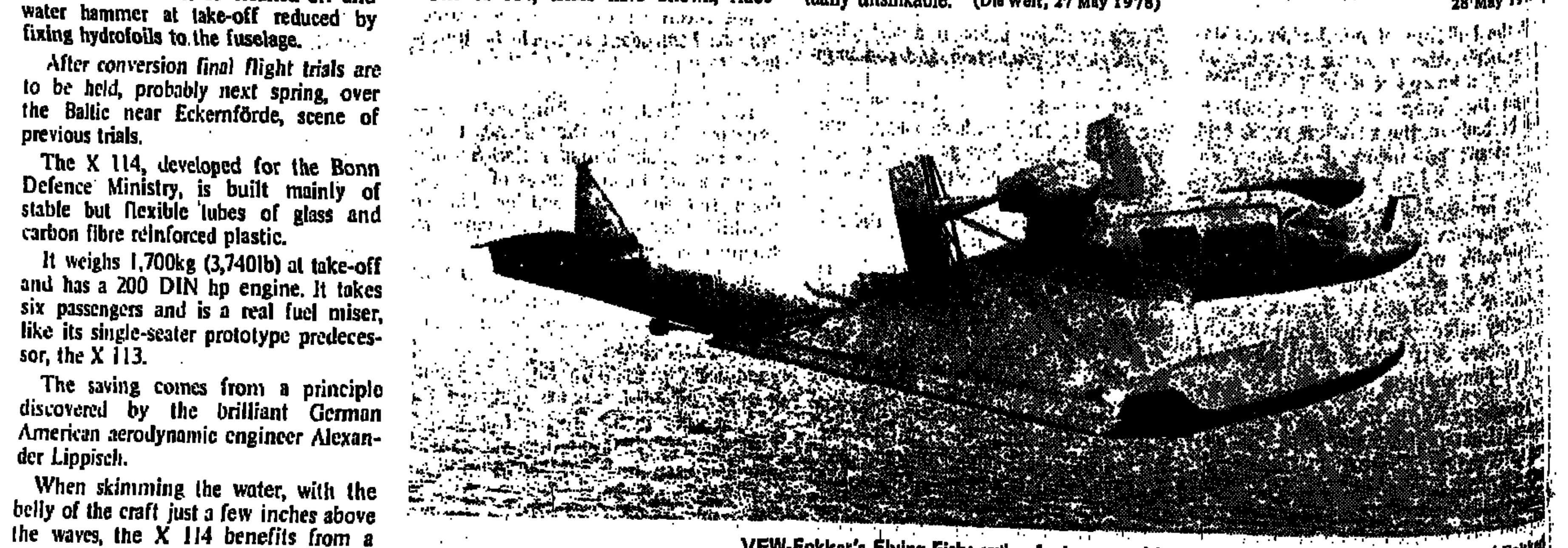
So once the Flying Fish is airborne it needs very little engine power. Fuel consumption plummets in comparison with a conventional aircraft of similar size.

The X 114, trials have shown, rides the air cushion so safely that the pilot can cheerfully take his hands off the joystick.

A military aircraft based on this design could perform a variety of reconnaissance roles at sea or be used as an airborne launching pad.

Civilian uses are also conceivable – as a high-speed ferry, for instance, although the flying fish would have to be a jumbo.

What is more, since the X 114's fuselage is made of plastic tubing it is virtually unsinkable. (Die Welt, 27 May 1978)



VFW-Fokker's Flying Fish: saving fuel on a cushion of air (Photo: VFW-Fokker)



■ RESOURCES

# Third World anchor holds up deep-sea mining

Mineral wealth can now be wrested from the bed of the ocean. Deep-sea mining has passed its first technical trials with flying colours.

Some time is likely to elapse, however, before operations prove profitable, and there is still no prospect of agreement on international law on the horizon.

The seventh session of the international Law of the Sea conference failed in Geneva, like its predecessors elsewhere, to reach agreement.

There appeared to be no way of bridging the gap between the industrialised countries and some developing nations.

This is most unsatisfactory, especially for the Federal Republic of Germany, which with Japan and the United States is best equipped for deep-sea mining.

Development of deep-sea mining techniques has been the result of private companies joining forces, amply backed by public funds.

But the role of private industry was the very point of difference at yet another session of the Law of the Sea conference.

With the meeting at Geneva being decidedly political in character, technological progress has proved of little use for either the Federal Republic or other industrialised nations.

Yet in recent months substantial quantities of manganese nodules have for the first time been mined non-stop from the bed of the Pacific at a depth of 5,000 metres (16,40ft).

There were no miners down below to get their feet wet. Two automatic systems have been successfully tried.

The one brings the potato-sized nodules to the surface hydraulically, the other uses air.

A pilot smelting plant is under construction to convert the coveted manganese nodules into tangible mineral wealth.

The state is understandably subsidising these joint ventures, being keen to secure supplies. But the private companies, including Preussag of Hanover, who have thrown in their lot with domestic and foreign partners, have taken a big financial risk.

The cost of an integrated marine mining plant ranging from prospecting to smelting ore is estimated at roughly DM3,000m.

So far no consortium of companies from the Federal Republic has joined the race because it is too expensive, there is an incalculable risk of disaster on the high seas and market trends are impossible to forecast.

But the cost would double if a number of developing countries at the Law of the Sea conference had their way. Deep-sea mining would die getting off the ground.

The Group of 77, which now represents about 100 developing countries, would like to see industrialised countries who set up deep-sea mining facilities provide the Third World with an additional installation to match each plant launched.

The industralised nations are, of course, expected to provide these mining production lines free. And the mere facilities would naturally not be enough.

Initially, and the initial period would no doubt be lengthy, the industrialised countries would be expected to supply qualified personnel to run the operations. The industrialised countries dismiss this demand for industrial know-how and free installations as absurd. The developing nations spend far too much as it is on other investments, such as arms.

It is hardly surprising that German observers, such as Preussag's Dr Erich Blissenbach, an adviser to the Bonn delegation at Geneva, felt the conference to have been depressing.

The Bonn government at Geneva shared the view of other highly industrialised countries that the ocean seabed must remain open to all.

The Group of 77, on the other hand, is anxious for an international seabed mining authority with comprehensive powers.

This agency is seen as not only supervising the award of seabed concessions but also, or so its backers initially argued, taking sole responsibility for mining operations.

The Group of 77 has since conceded that private companies might be allowed to participate in operations, and not even solely on the international agency's behalf.

The agency is currently envisaged as a sort of clearing house through which, for instance, countries without direct access to the sea would be able to share in the proceeds.

Views differ as to the profits and suitability of such a cumbersome organisation. Companies currently engaged in deep-sea mining hold that, provided market trends in nickel and other minerals found in the nodules remain bullish, mining cannot prove profitable before the mid-80s.

Industrialised countries feel the proposed international agency is suspect because, as a kind of super-Opec, it could influence the market by controlling seabed operations, undeniably what the Group of 77 have in mind.

Members of the Group whose economies are largely dependent on exports of mainland ores are worried that the bottom might fall out of their commodity markets once seabed mining begins.

Much to their chagrin the Group of 77 discovered at the Geneva conference that they no longer present a united front to the industrialised world.

Their Latin American members, for instance, only showed solidarity over the 200-mile economic zone along the continental shelf.

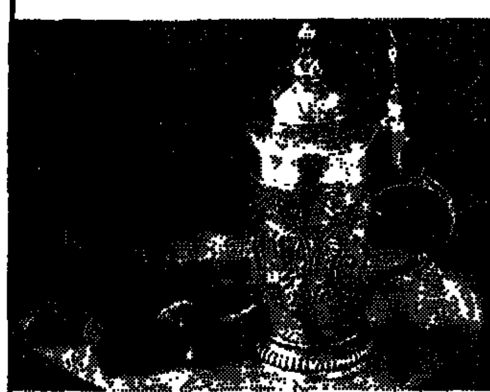
A further attempt to reach agreement will come in August, but will Bonn and Washington defer until this New York session the decision to go it alone and pass national legislation to operate in the interim?

Legislation is virtually ready in both capitals. It envisages the establishment of an international consortium including companies from the Federal Republic to build and operate the first commercial seabed enterprise.

Should Bonn decide to "go it alone" with Washington, it could no doubt be sure of Opposition support in the Bundestag. But clashes with the Third World would prove inevitable.

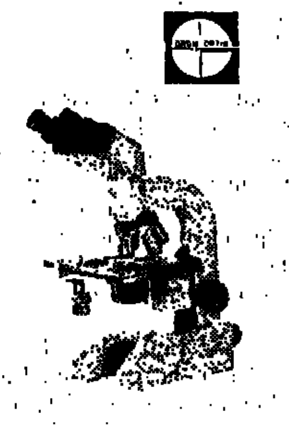
*Dieter Tasch*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 May 1978)

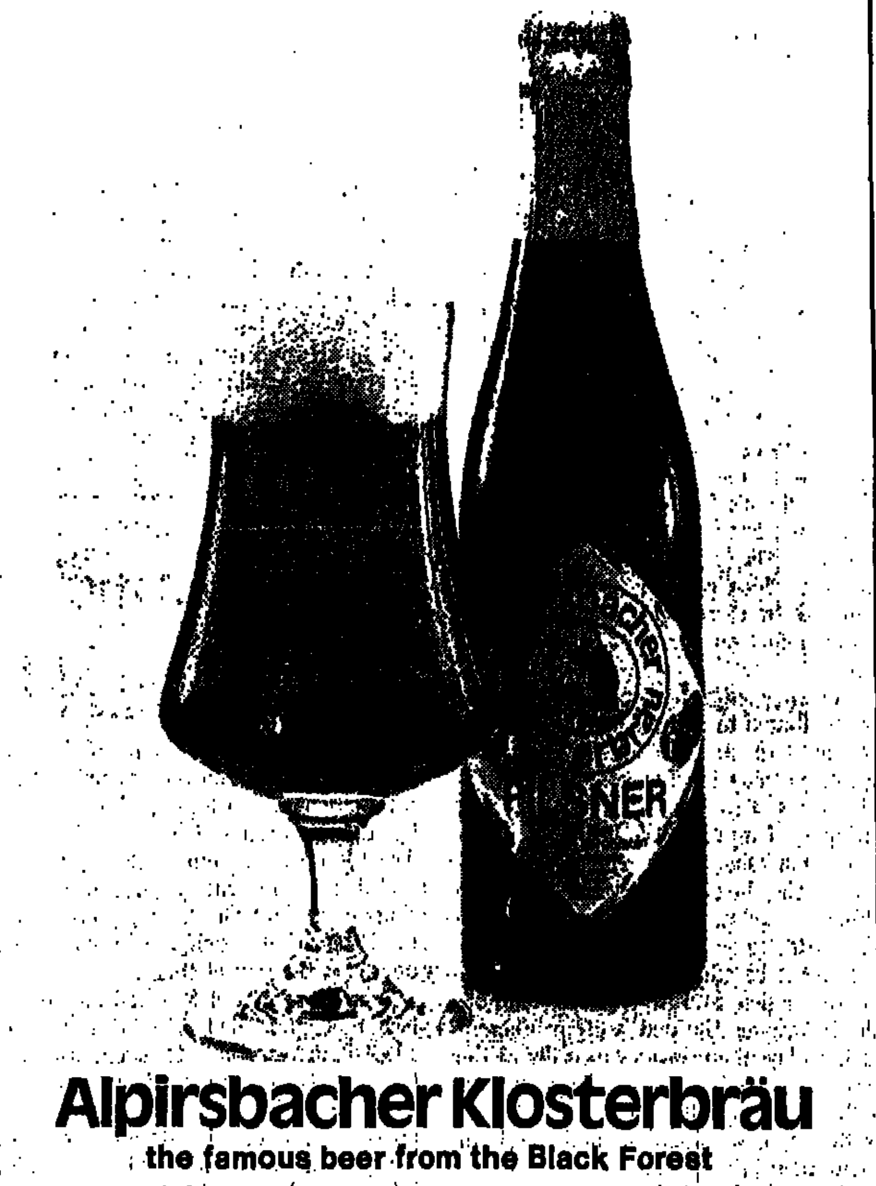






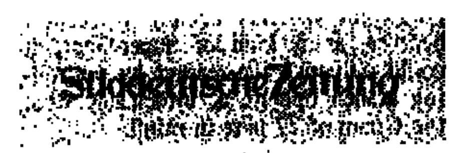






■ THEATRE

# Berlin Theatre Festival is winner to half-way mark



The fifteenth Berlin Theatre Festival is now at the half-way stage. The plays in this competition are chosen by a ten-man jury which changes from year to year.

The choice this year seemed to reflect the preferences or prejudices of the West German theatre intelligentsia. Could we expect gold medals for Claus Peymann's Stuttgart productions, for Peter Stein's adventurous Theater am Halleschen Ufer, for Zadek's special numbers and Bondy's lively work?

One was left with an uncomfortable feeling. It would be easy enough to compare the south, which has fared badly, with the well-represented far north. In performances such as Dresen's Vienna version of *Iphigenie*, Neuenfels' *Victor* or the Munich Residenz Theater version of *Richard II* (not to mention the *Tribads* and Wedekind's *Erdgeist/Lulu)* there is far more seriousness, precision and quality of acting than in the demonstrative self-righteous version of Kleist's *Prinz von Homburg*, directed by Karge/Laughoff at the Hamburg Schauspielhaus.

It would be easy enough to criticise the work of the jury in these terms. So let me say that at least up to the half-way stage the Berlin festival has been far more successful than one might have expected in view of some of the widely reviewed plays performed.

A brilliant half-way stage in two senses. For one thing, we still have about a half of the plays to look forward to. For another, most of the plays so far were noticeably better before the interval than in the more or less mechanical and predictable denouements.

This applies especially to Peter Stein's impressively imaginative *Trilogie des Wiedershens*, but also to Roland Schäfer's sensationally effective version of Schiller's *Kabale und Liebe.* This tendency to trail off in the second half could also be seen in Peymann's *Iphigenie* and in Luc Bondy's Hamburg version of Ibsen's *Ghosts.*

To some extent this criticism also applies to Peter Brooks masterly version of *Ubu*, which is far more effective in a bare theatre than in a tent. His Ubu became a bit too loquacious towards the end.

This marked ebbing of interest could be attributed to the technical perfection of modern theatre direction, which leaves nothing to chance and where the characters soon become transparent and stripped of mystery. We know too much too soon about the characters. This means the director either has to overdo things or allow an interesting play to drift into tediousness.

It must be admitted that this tendency for action and interest to crumble slowly towards the end is often inherent in the plays themselves, especially in the case of comedics. Only the very best authors are capable of creating a "new" world, a new situation and level of excitement in each new scene.

Modern styles of direction do not try to overcome this problem by balancing the action out more evenly; instead they exaggerate this tendency in the exposition and development of character.

Still, there were many bold moves to be admired in the first half of the Theatertreffen — innovations in stage design and easy flow of performance. It reawakened our enthusiasm for the German theatre.

The most impressive play on view so far has been Roland Schäfer's Düsseldorf version of Schiller's *Kabale und Liebe.* Schäfer, the young man from Düsseldorf who is now acting in Peter Stein's ensemble, made a remarkable debut as a director. His Ferdinand and Luise not only expressed their high thoughts and got across their crises, they also convinced as lovers.

Ferdinand (Peter Simonischek) had learned a new motiv at Father Miller's flute lessons, which they whistled to one another. At the beginning they teased and amused each other throwing lemons (without knowing what an important part the lemon would play in their life and death).

Many directors have tried to present this love, Swabian loquacity or the vulgar hunger for power of the president and in doing so have missed Schiller's point. Schäfer achieved something far more important — he achieved these things without doing violence to the text.

The subjects of the Kabale cosmos, in love, cowardly, criminal combined their *affectation* with *fantastic*, amusing or expressive gestures. This expressiveness was so powerfully theatrical that the characters, thus magnified, did not need to be embarrassed about their high-flown words.

When Lady Milford (Veronika Bayer) behaves like a Verdi opera courtesan and not like an actress intimidated by this classical play, fearfully considering how she is to say her words, then it all sounds right. Luise as a German girl with pigtails with a tendency towards tragic, pietistic arrogance and larger than life bravery is utterly credible. Reinhard Firchow, as Ferdinand's rival and enemy, laughed loud to hide his embarrassment at the Millers, and, despite his resentment, did not find it easy to destroy the woman he loved. He was convincing, not the usual stage villain in performances of this play. This liveliness was not easy to achieve. The actors sometimes exaggerated the noise, the anti-classical aspect, the modern tone. We heard the sound of railway stations and the sound of the radio, as if to remind us that Schiller comes from a different age. The director's ingenuity failed him in the fifth act. The President and old Miller could not maintain their characteristic attitudes. But in all, Schäfer achieved the almost impossible task of characterising Schiller's dramatis personae precisely, realistically and amusingly without in any way diduculing them. There was nothing classically rigid or critically distorted in this version. It was the liveliest, most exciting version of Schiller the German stage has seen for a long time.



A scene from Roland Schäfer's effective version of Schiller's *Kabale und Liebe* at the Berlin Theatre Festival. (Photo: Lore Bermbach)

In the modern theatre this balance between terror and catharsis becomes a tension between perceptive irony and the realisation of suffering. Irony alone can swiftly become mere denunciation, mere compassion can degenerate into sentimentality. Peter Stein's production of Botho Strauss' highly sensitive *Trilogie des Wiedersehens* did this balancing act admirably until the interval.

It was an exemplary piece of elucidation, the delicate probing of life-crises in Karl-Ernst Herrmann's melancholy stage set.

Libgart Schwarz, Edith Clever, Elke Petri, Otto Sander and Peter Fitz triumph in an orgy of delicate irony with a deadly serious capacity for suffering. The past weakness of the Stein ensemble, the young male actors sometimes not quite up to it and too obviously recent drama school graduates, seemed to be removed.

The actresses are first class. Unfortunately it worked only until the interval. After that the performance degenerated into mere self-righteous criticism of art club meetings and culture-vultures.

Luc Bondy's version of Ibsen's *Ghosts* showed that what is characteristic can be amusing and what is realistic to some extent comical. Ibsen's machinery of determination produced its catastrophes effortlessly.

But the performance has seen better days. It had not been put together well enough for this Berlin presentation. But despite the performances, we sensed what Luc Bondy had perhaps been trying to do and what his actors, with the notable exception of Wolf Dietrich Sprenger and Axel Bauer, did not achieve.

*Joachim Kaiser*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 May 1978)

# Contemporary Aristophanes clouded by banality

This year's North German Theatre Festival in Hanover opened with a production of Aristophanes' *The Clouds* by the Deutsches Theater, Göttingen. The theatre in the university town has a tradition of presenting moderised versions of ancient Greek plays going back to 1966, when Wolfgang Schadewaldt presented the first of them.

Schadewaldt pupil Manfred Fuhrmann has now translated *The Clouds* and adapted it "for the late twentieth century." He has taken considerable liberties with the original. He transforms Aristophanes's aristocratic derision of the sceptical sophists embodied by Socrates into a rough ride through the schools and universities of contemporary Germany. No-one is spared; professors, students politicians, reformers and traditionalists are all ridiculed.

Strepsiades, whom Fuhrmann renames Beugemann (Bender), an old farmer only interested in science because he hopes it will help rid him of his debts, sets the Socratic university on fire after his son, having completed his studies, beats him up.

The clouds with which the scholars have replaced the gods and the personified "strong" and "weak" speech functions as chorus, ballet and commentators. The play is presented in the style of Offenbach, with music, dancing and revue-like scenery. Of course there is no shortage of foul language and crude banalities. This appears to be what is meant by comical.

The organisers went to considerable trouble and expense for the decor by Thomas Richer-Forgach and Susanne Kloiber. Special mention should be made of Glenn Walbaum, who interpreted the not very original music by Peter Jannssens on piano, guitar, trumpet and drums brilliantly and also acted exceptionally well.

Director Günther Fleckenstein's production was well-prepared, precise and effective. All the actors except Fritz Nydegger as Beugemann (who looked too young for the part and overdid the whole thing) remained within the framework of deliberate parody.

The reaction of the public was mixed. Ironical applause and scornful laughter were heard whenever the chorus appeared. At the end there was loud applause and not much sign of dissenting voices. If, as the motto of the event says, the function of theatre is to entertain, then this rather stilted attempt at a revival was not a very auspicious start.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 27 May 1978)



■ ART

# People at work: the other side of the melancholy Munch



Edvard Munch: "I who came into this world sick . . ."

The current exhibition of Edvard Munch's work at the Hamburg Kunstverein shows a hitherto neglected aspect of his painting, works portraying people at work.

The Norwegian Edvard Munch has gone down in the history of art as a painter of fears and neuroses, solitude and melancholy, yearning for death and the power of desire. The subject of his paintings is despair and hopelessness. With a frisson of fear mixed with delight, the fin de siècle peers down into the abyss of its psyche.

Sigmund Freud saw in it not the divine spark but the animal force of the libido; Nietzsche announced that God was dead; Strindberg portrayed the struggle between the sexes as a torturing dance of death. Munch transformed this mood into expressive images and metaphors. A shriek brings the universe into convulsions. A woman bending over a man's neck becomes a demon vampire. In death chambers people in disguise freeze into postures of utter solitude.

The Edvard Munch we see at this exhibition is radically different, an artist known only to art experts and tourists who have found their way into the Munch museum in Oslo. In more than a hundred watercolours, oil paintings and drawings we see peasants cutting golden yellow corn, the industrial proletariat walking through dark and narrow streets, building workers on scaffolds and woodcutters felling pines and firs with mighty sweeps of the axe. The gloom is lightened by a fresh and powerful blast of air. It is as if ordinary life has broken the deadly, strangulating spell of madness.

Instead of revealing the dark subconscious of lost souls, Munch depicts with powerful brushstrokes the course of physical work in collectives: men digging, shovelling, hacking and laying bricks. The portrayal is utterly realistic. Precise observation of everyday life replaces the visions of disordered senses and overwrought nerves.

Here we see a neglected side of Munch's work, Munch the painter of scenes from working life. These pictures are not to be found in books of reproductions of his paintings, whereas his lyrical, soul-searching paintings once inspired a whole generation of symbolists and expressionists.

This transformation by means of which the despondent artist achieved a kind of stability and reconciled himself with tangible reality can be easily explained in terms of his life.

His early youth was overshadowed by death and illness. Born in 1863 into a family of scholars, he saw his mother, his brother and his sister die of tuberculosis. Another sister lived out her days in a sanatorium. Munch himself suffered from gout and haemoptysis and believed he would go mad, something he had inherited from his father.

At the age of 35 he started an autobiographical sketch with the words: "I who came into this world sick . . ." and his early creative work was the exploration of themes from a world of physical and spiritual decadence: *The Sick Child, Death in the Sick Chamber* and *Melancholy* are the titles of his first major works.

In his early manhood he spent years in Paris, Berlin, Italy and the south of France. These wanderings were ended by a severe nervous crisis. Munch spent several months in a sanatorium and emerged strengthened and cured. He spent the rest of his life in self-imposed obscurity near Oslo.

The pictures at the Hamburg exhibition were painted during this period of consolidation between 1910 and 1930. They include plans for huge murals, including one for a chocolate factory and one for the new town hall in Oslo.

On closer examination it becomes clear that the assumption that Munch had turned to the natural forces of his Nordic homeland and left his gloom-ridden past behind him cannot hold. Even his portrayals of the working world, which are always embedded in nature, contain an unmistakable element of suffering.

Munch's work was not to the taste of the bourgeoisie because he bitterly attacked the prevalent opportunistic belief in progress. He saw in simple working people companions in suffering and he feld strong bonds with them even before his illness.

Although he showed little interest in political disputes, the class struggle and ideological discussions, he observed the growing strength of the working class movement with great satisfaction. After the revolutionary tremors at the end of World War One, he believed that the "age of the workers was dawning" — "these grey, exploited masses who build our houses and our streets and who will soon wrest power from the middle classes."

He wrote: "Ever since I began painting in this country, I have had to fight fo every inch of ground with a clenched fist — and in my main painting of working people I have portrayed a man with a clenched first." These revolutionary gestures were the exception, not the rule. The refugee from the straightjacket of civilisation longed for peace, for harmony between man and nature and not for struggle.

The question of whether the rediscovery of this aspect of Munch's work is worthwhile is answered in the exhibition catalogue by polemic assertions that bourgeois art historians and art critics deliberately suppressed this aspect of his work because of his proletarian sympathies.

This will not do. Pictures are not progressive simply because they portray a working class milieu. Munch's early paintings are perceptive descriptions of the suffering and sickness unto death of an entire epoch. His paintings of workers are backward-looking, they represent an optimistic view of non-alienated work in a better world.

Munch's workers belong to a pre-industrial agricultural era, they have the same theatrial, earth-bound poses figures in paintings by Courbet, Millet and van Gogh. At the same time as Munch was producing these works, Ferdinand Leger was inventing new visual forms to depict the relationship between man and machine.

The view that Munch's late work has been singled out for discriminatory treatment seems mistaken when we recall that Munch was not an individual phenomenon. The history of modern art is in large part that of the productivity of suffering. Where suffering is overcome, the creative forces often dry up. This applies to Ensor, de Chirico, Meidner, Kokoschka, Ott Dix and Schmidt-Rottluff, to mention only a few artists who retreated into private idylls after their "recovery."



The neglected Munch: picture of a labourer from the Hamburg exhibition

Munch, too, sensed the connection between psychic tension and creativity. In a letter to Eberhard Grisebach, he writes: "I can communicate far better with people now but the strange thing is that this does not help my creative work. My earlier sick condition was very good for my artistic work."

*Wolf Schön*

(Deutsche Zeitung, 26 May 1978)





A woodcutter and a building labourer painted by Edvard Munch. (Photos: Katalog)

■ MEDICINE

# Inadequate blood vessel ailment care costs lives, congress told

Only one in nine West Germans suffering from blood vessel disorders gets a chance of being operated on swiftly and cured of the ailment, the first international angiologists congress, held at the Oberwald Clinic in Grebenhain, Hesse, has been told.

The inadequate angiological follow-up care is evidenced by the fact that 40 per cent of the 10,000 patients operated on annually receive no regular aftercare by specialists.

The 80 leading angiologists from Holland, France, Austria, Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany who met at the Oberwald Clinic recently dealt with surgery techniques, the therapy of vein thrombosis and the substituting of blood vessels by plastic veins.

Dr Hartwig Seboldt, Tübingen, read a paper on polls conducted in the 20 major medical centres specialising in blood vessel surgery and carrying out more than 500 operations a year.

The capacity of these 20 centres and special clinics – mostly part of university clinics – was about 10,000 operations a year.

But the number of West Germans suffering from ailments every year is in the region of 300,000. Some 30 per cent – around 90,000 – could be treated at an early stage and with excellent results. But at present only 10,000 (or one in nine) patients stood a chance of optimal treatment by surgery.

Dr Peter Salzmann (who, with Dr Uwe Ehresmann, founded West Germany's first angiological clinic, the Oberwald Clinic, of which he is medical director), who chaired the congress, said that apart from the 20 major clinics there were another 10 carrying out less than 500 operations a year and with waiting lists of up to six months. For many patients, he said, this was a frightful situation that might lead, for instance, to the loss of a leg that could have been saved.

This malaise in angiology was particularly regrettable because blood vessel surgery, recognised as a special field only since 1977, could eliminate the serious consequences of the ailment.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to make full use of medical possibilities.

Some 20,000 legs that could be saved are still amputated every year. Moreover, 30 per cent of stroke cases could be prevented by prophylactic surgery done in time.

A shortage of centres for blood vessel surgery, and above all a shortage of specialists and inadequate training of young doctors in university clinics, was largely responsible.

Particularly shocking, he said, was that 40 per cent of operated patients receive no aftercare.

The general practitioners who should look after these people were neither trained nor equipped to recognise a deterioration in their patients' conditions and arrange for special treatment in good time.

Another reason for poor follow-up treatment was that the blood vessel surgery department of university clinics were unable to take on the aftercare of patients operated on.

An improvement could be made by increasing the number of angiological centres with specialists who would know when additional surgery was necessary.

According to Dr Salzmann, the number of operations and extent of aftercare could be improved by better supplementary training for doctors.

The two-year training for blood vessel surgery which follows the six-year general surgical training could at present only be provided at university clinics. But there were too few places and specialist teachers vailable.

An improvement was also possible if the medical associations granted permission for extended training.

Dr Salzmann advocated that fully trained blood vessel surgeons and the relevant surgical departments in clinics with a minimal number of annual operations be allowed to employ assistants given specialised training.

In the discussion at the congress it became clear that the situation, which can be summed up as "many blood vessel cases – few specialists", is not peculiar to West Germany.

But in other countries the medical regulations are less stringent. A doctor specialising in angiology is permitted to say on his shingle "Doctor for Leg Dosorders" or "Vein Ailments."

This is impossible in West Germany where doctors may not draw attention to their "sub-speciality."

The citizen, Dr Salzmann said, should be entitled to know which doctor to consult for which ailment. And even general practitioners found it difficult to find a specialist for areas such as blood vessel disorders or thyroid conditions.

"There would be much less confusion and patients being treated too late if the public and general practitioners knew to whom to go with each particular ailment," Dr Salzmann said.

*Gabriele Weigand*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 May 1978)

# 'Artificial ear' is close say German researchers

A team of West German researchers has had considerable success in developing an artificial ear for the deaf based on a mini-computer.

There are some 300,000 totally deaf people in Western Europe alone, the population of a major city. Most of them have been deaf since birth.

But this fate is no longer irreversible since the European Community has succeeded in coordinating national research aimed at producing an artificial ear as soon as possible.

The German contribution comes primarily from the Institute for Physiology and Biocybernetics of Erlangen-Nuremberg University.

The institute's team, headed by Professor Wolf-Dieter Keidel, has largely solved the medical-technical problems, consisting of two parts: the implantation of electrodes in the vicinity of the hearing nerve and the slowing down of the high frequency of speech.

The first item is particularly delicate because electrodes have to be found that will not be rejected and can be worn for life.

The surgery is only feasible if even the absolutely deaf still have remnants of the hearing nerve. These must not be endangered by hasty experiment (as for instance by unsuitable electrodes). If this happens, the only method of improving hearing would be by capturing sound waves through the skin.

The second problem consists in processing the extremely high speech frequency. Even the best of suitable electrodes could not replace the 30,000 hearing nerves in a healthy individual.

The Erlangen researchers are trying to slo down the speech frequency of 1/5,000 of a second.

This requires a mini-computer small enough to be carried inconspicuously by the patient.

The EEC project, entitled "Clinical, Physiological and Morphological Research on the Evaluation, Understanding and Substitution for Loss of Hearing" has many other facets being researched in some two dozen institutes.

When will deafness be ended? Dr Peter Finkenzeller, Erlangen, says: "Given further progress in electronic and micro-surgery, we can expect experiments by 1980 and broad application in the course of the 80s."

*Heinz Günther*

(Die Zeit, 26 May 1978)

# West German kidney patients expceted to triple by 1982

German urologists expect the number of kidney patients in West Germany to triple by 1982, the head of the urological department of Frankfurt's University Clinic, Professor Wolfgang Weber, told the 19th congress of the South-West German Urological Society in Frankfurt.

At present some 100 of over one million West Germans have to undergo regular dialysis, a figure expected to increase to 274 per million by 1982.

The treatment cost for the expected dialysis patients would amount to at least DM1,200 million a year, said Professor Weber.

In most instances, lasting relief could be provided by kidney transplants. But in West Germany only one in 20 sufferers from severe kidney conditions (5.6 per cent) can undergo transplantation surgery.

German dialysis patients thus stand much less chance of a complete cure than kidney patients in neighbouring countries.

According to Professor Weber, the European average is 18.3 per cent, reaching 50 per cent in Denmark.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 May 1978)

# Medical Association ejects 'entrepreneur' president

An intended vote of confidence turned into a vote of no-confidence when the majority of doctors at the West German Medical Association congress refused to confirm Hans-Joachim Sewering as their spokesman.

Dr Sewering could have prevented embarrassing and unpleasant debates had he decided earlier to resign.

But he refused to accept that the criteria applied to his medical work are stricter than those appplied to an unknown GP.

The president of an association must set standards. Professor Sewering did – but in a negative way.

In his practice he installed apparatus which he himself was not permitted to operate and which he then rented out to other physicians.

This made him an entrepreneur, which is inconsistent with the image of a doctor whose fees are earned solely by the treatment of patients.

The doctors took a long time to end the public debate about Professor Sewering.

The criticism levelled against the president of the Medical Association (initially from the outside) eventually began to dominate internal discussion in the medical profession.

In the end, the fear of having to put up for another year with a man in the twilight zone gained the upper hand over the much-vaunted and largely misunderstood tenet of professional solidarity.

The problem linked with the name Sewering revolves around whether the present unrestricted use of apparatus has supplanted the doctor-patient dialogue. It remains unsolved by Professor Sewering's resignation. The discussion on this issue is still to come.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 25 May 1978)



Professor Hans-Joachim Sewering: the vote went the other way (Photo: Sven Simon)



■ EDUCATION

# Misconceptions bring high psycho student drop-out

Twenty per cent of German psychology students drop out altogether, 20 per cent change courses, 40 per cent say they are dissatisfied or frustrated with their courses, and the reason is that many have misconceptions about the subject before they start their studies.

"Neurotics and others with psychological problems are not suited for the profession of psychologist," we read in an information leaflet published by the Federal Institute of Labour. Polls have shown that two-thirds of student psychologists regard their courses as a way to gain greater self-knowledge. One in three say personal problems played a part in choosing the subject.

Psychology is a *numerus clausus* subject, that is, pupils with *Abitur* (the university entrance qualification) wanting to study it have to have particularly good marks to be admitted. Psychology is not taught at German schools and so many school-leavers do not have any realistic idea of the science of the psyche.

The public image of the psychologist is also vague: at one extreme he seems to be a charlatan and dealer in the occult, at the other he measures intelligence with technical perfection.

Psychology students should realise first of all that their course is not a therapy. The student psychologist not only has to study his subject, he has to come to terms with himself.

Those who expect their studies primarily to solve their own problems, should rather seek psychological advice or therapy than attempt to become therapist and patient in one.

It has been shown that most psychology students have mainly read psychoanalytical authors such as Freud, Jung, Adler and Mitscherlich before starting their university courses. They tend to regard psychonalysis and psychology as one, whereas psychoanalysis is only a small part of psychology.

Freshmen only realise this when they find on the lecture lists that their are no introductory courses on psychoanalysis. And later in their courses they find that the amount of teaching time spent on psychoanalysis is strictly limited.

Instead they have to spend the first five terms working on introductory scientific and methodology courses. They have to "swot up statistics" and the whole process reminds them of mathematics lessons at school.

The study of method, by means of which exact measurements are possible in psychology, is an essential part of the course. Psychology has become far more mathematical in the last few years, moving away from the humanities towards the natural sciences. It also overlaps in some areas with social sciences.

Those studying psychology should not only be interested in psychic processes but should also be capable of empirical and experimental work and of mathematical, logical, abstract thought. Those who are terrified of mathematical formulae would be best advised not to start studying psychology at all.

There have been no analyses of the personal qualities required by psychologists. In general, they should be outgoing, willing to communicate and articulate. A knowledge of English is vital, as most of the recent research done in the field is published in English.

Apart from the university student counselling services, there are a number of sources from which would-be psychology students can get information about the courses which may save them from disappointment later.

The information sheets published by the Federal Institute of Labour provide a good survey of the work, training and professional prospects of psychologists. They are available in most public libraries and can also be obtained from the Bertelsmann Verlag, Postfach 1020, Bielefeld.

The study guide *Psychologie* by Marie-Rose Iberl in the Lexika series can be recommendo for sixth formers. There are a number of modern introductory works enumerated in the bibliography, including *Das Studium der Psychologie* by U. Kleinbeck, R. Lutz and W. Schönpflug (Parderborn 1971) and *Berufsaufgaben und Praxis des Psychologen* (The Work and Practice of the Psychologist) by H. Benesch and F. Dorsch, (Ernst Reinhardt Verlag).

The magazine *Info Psychologie – Aktuell* can be recommended to freshmen. It is published by Lohr, Michaelis and Wilhelm in connection with the magazine *Psychologia Heute*. *Info* contains up-to-date information on the state of studies at universities and institutes of psychology.

Then there is the information week for freshmen psychology students which students themselves have been running at Hamburg University for the past few years. Here newcomers can get to know one another and make contact with older students.

There is even a newspaper for first semester students which is aptly called *Irreführer* (misguider and leader of the mad). It confuses its readers with articles on "tricks played by teachers" rather than providing objective information.

Talks with student representatives for psychology are strongly to be recommended. Here freshmen can often pick up useful tips.

The course lasts for ten semesters (five years) and is followed by two, and in many universities three, six-week practical periods in various educational, social and industrial areas. After this candidates take the diploma examination.

This course does not mean that graduates are qualified as psychotherapists (psychoanalysts) or clinical psychologists. To gain this qualification they have to take additional courses at Psychotherapy Institutes which can cost up to DM50,000 for six semesters.

The prospects for psychotherapists are exceptionally good: neuroses are spreading like bush fires and there are long waiting lists for psychoanalysts.

The range of fields in which psychologists can work is very wide: industrial counselling, advertising psychology, market research, the Labour Office, traffic psychology, police psychology, careers advice, psychological advice for the armed forces. Then there are posts as

Continued on page 14

■ SOCIETY

# '...and what colour electric chair would you like, sir?'

Do you want a Rococo doll's castle, a Maltese knight's armour or a snake complete with charmer? Dieter Reimer can get it for you.

On the other hand, you might need a skywriter or five centenarians or perhaps a pink Rolls-Royce — just give him a couple of hours, and he'll get that too.

Even an order for wax figures of Napoleon and Madame Pompadour leaves Herr Reimer, 51, and his Munich agency unfazed.

His Agency for Unusual Orders, the only one of its kind in Germany, is used to dealing with special wants.

For the past two years, his staff of three has been taking care of way-out requests and providing the answers to mysterious questions — for a fee.

Dieter Reimer, for instance, provides a "not too unruly" donkey for a 15-day run of a play at DM100 a night.

A weather map of Inner Mongolia costs DM450.

An exhibitor at a fair wanting an ice cream stall turn-of-the-century style within 48 hours had to pay several thousand deutschemarks.

Herr Reimer's customers are mainly advertising agencies, TV producers and filmmakers. But there are also some eccentric private individuals seeking help.

His job requires experience, imagination, extensive general knowledge and nerves of steel.

He makes use of encyclopaedias, maps, four telephones and a card index with about 4,00 items, primarily clippings from the classified columns of newspapers.

If somebody advertises exotic butterflies or wapiti antlers or offers his services as an expert on New Guinea, he is certain to wind up in Dieter Reimer's index.

"There is every likelihood that a customer might ask for this type of stuff, and advertisements provide a lead," says Herr Reimer.

For the same reason, he keeps a record of centenarians, world travellers, owners of vintage cars and Greenland experts. There is no telling when there might be a call for them.

Period cars, for instance, are asked for virtually every week, mostly for films, exhibitions and weddings.

But there is also a demand for talking parrots, skywriters, old horse-drawn sleds and even negro families.

Providing them is part of Dieter Reimer's daily routine. Before starting his agency he spent many years abroad in various jobs, later working in advertising until he found that there was a market for an all-round provider of exotica.

"The impossible is taken care of instantly..., miracles take a bit longer," says Herr Reimer.

In dealing with customers, he oozes self-confidence, reassuring the client, even if he has no immediate idea how to tackle the job.

Regardless of whether the client wants a genuine electric chair, waltzing Eskimos or a team of huskies, Dieter Reimer promises to deliver — although he might not always be able to.

Given a bit of bad luck, it might take days before a customer's wish for a cheap helicopter for rent or a stuntman can be fulfilled.

But there also orders which even the Agency for Unusual Orders cannot fill, for instance a woman's request to track down her friend named Israel and living in Israel (Herr Reimer also has a private detective licence).

The agency also resuses to help with immoral or illegal orders, although it does occasionally track down an unfaithful wife if there is no more lucrative work available.

Herr Reimer prefers the most complicated orders which, after a few minutes of thought, can be dealt with by a couple of phone calls.

(Cartoon: Heinz Langer)

There was, for instance, the TV crew that needed a turn-of-the-century villa with a tennis court because the villa originally envisaged was not available.

Dieter Reimer filled the order by ordering enough red clay to make a mock tennis court in the garden of a villa available to him.

Among his more interesting feats is a South Pole expedition he organised for some clients and a chapel complete with pews and altar which he provided for the local followers of Bishop Lefèbvre.

*Brigitte Zander*

(Die Zeit, 26 May 1978)

Continued from page 13

educational psychologists, marriage guidance counsellors, school psychologist therapists, psychologists in homes and court psychologists. Finally there are teaching posts at universities and institutes. Predictions about professional prospects are vague. On the one hand there is a growing need for psychologists; on the other, according to Professor Pawlik, a psychologist, "it is doubtful whether public and private bodies will create the necessary jobs for psychologists in the fields of social and medical welfare in the next few years."

*Sibylle Ahlers*

(Die Zeit, 19 May 1978)

# Lorelei stays unsullied

No ugly factory buildings must be permitted to detract from the Lorelei romanticism, a Koblenz court has ruled.

The hearing involved an entrepreneur who wanted to enlarge a factory along an autobahn opposite the Lorelei Rock, tearing down several old buildings.

The court held that major industrial plants outside townships in the Rhine Valley between Bingen and Koblenz would detract from the region's character as a favourite excursion and recreation area.

*dpa*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 23 May 1978)

# Poll says German men want more sex than women

Men are more likely than women to have to suppress their sex drives, according to a study by sociologists Dr Klaus Eichner and Dr Werner Habermehl of Hamburg University from late 1976 to the spring of 1978 on male and female sexuality in West Germany.

On the other hand, more women that men are forced to engage in sex against their will. Close to 50 per cent of Germany's men would like to have more sex.

Statistically, the Germans' wishes on sex can be summed up as: 47 per cent of men and 35 per cent of women would like to have more intercourse; 51 per cent of men and 60 per cent of women would like their sexual activity to remain unchanged; three per cent of men and seven per cent of women want less sex.

The male wish for more intercourse (sexual contact in all its variations) diminishes with age, while the opposite is true for women.

There the problem of too little sex is as important as that of too much. Women between 21 and 30 especially would like to have more reticence on the part of their partner (the exact figure is 57 per cent).

It matches the overall picture that marital fidelity is less important to men than to women.

The sociologists concluded: "In keeping with many cautious statements lately, it seems evident that the majority of Germans consider sex something beautiful rather than a mere race for an orgasm.

"They long for a partner with whom to be happy in a lasting relationship. They want to feel protected, believing that the enjoyment of sex will come of its own accord."

The Hamburg sociologists sent questionnaires to some 10,000 randomly picked Germans and 1,000 men and 950 women replied.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 26 May 1978)

# For hire: five million flies

Perhaps you feel that a lively lapdog might be a useful prop in making a pickup. Or would you like to add to your image by having a panther on a leash?

No problem at all — at least not in Munich, where Volker Liebhart's Animal Leasing Agency is at your service.

Herr Liebhart, 42, became used to unusual wishes while working as a ship's steward.

Ten years ago he decided to fulfill these wishes on a business basis.

It all began when a Munich photographer wanted to rent his dog as a backdrop for fashion shots and has developed into a huge index file of animals for rent.

The card index now ranges from a sheep to a hippo, including trained pigs and swans.

Volker Liebhart knows all suppliers, ranging from hobby breeders to zoos and providing the whole range of animals from poodle to puma.

But Herr Liebhart does not only arrange the rental of animals, he is also their manager. His "staff" can handle a wide range of movie roles, from tracking a murderer to digging up the body.

In a theatrical performance in Munich, Mathilda the parrot drew lottery tickets night after night to the great amusement of winner and loser alike.

For a science-fiction series, Liebhart had to provide five million flies, which he bred himself.

A new departmend store needed a pink elephant for its opening. Herr Liebhart simply painted an ordinary pachyderm pink. In another department store, a crocodile's "friendly grin" drew attention to the advantages of a certain brand of underwear.

A Munich playboy wanted something very special for his birthday party, ordering four calves which his guests dressed in pyjamas, the fastest being the winner.

With it all, Volker Liebhart enjoys an excellent reputation as an animal lover. Her sees to it that his animals get breaks during their work, that they are fed on time and that they have professional keepers. He refuses to say anything about his fees "for tax reasons."

So far, Volker has only once been unable to meet a request: for a production of a movie on Mad King Ludwig of Bavaria the director wanted a swan that could be walked on a leash through Bavaria's fairytale castles ... but swans have an aversion to leashes.

*dpa*

(Die Welt, 23 May 1978)



■ SPORT

# Pomp and show – but DSB gets serious work done

Willi Weyer: an ovation softened him

(Photo: Sven Simon)




If pomp, pageantry and fine words from VIPs are any guide to the significance of events, then sport has reached the summit of social importance over the past few days.

At the Munich annual meeting of the 14-million-member Sports League (DSB), the outward form and assembled personalities combined to create the impression that sport had been recognised as a valuable activity, its importance to be symbolised from here to eternity.

Delegates of accociation representing the various sports and Land sports leagues were invited to assemble in royal boxes, halls of fames and castle halls to witness the historic occasion.

President Walter Scheel headed the list of well-wishers who felt obliged to attend.

They also included Cabinet Ministers, representatives of the Länder, deputy speakers of the Bundestag and party leaders.

The sum total of fine words if taken at face value, would have amounted to a swift solution of all the problems facing organised sport.

For two-and-a-half hours sport was made out to be a cure-all for the ills of society and a pillar of state. But it proved easier than might have been expected to return to more humdrum, everyday considerations.

DSB president Willi Weyer nonetheless managed to prolong the historic moment and recreate the atmosphere of euphoria at the working sessions of the annual meeting.

The main item on the agenda was a far from abstract topic billed as *vereint für die Vereine* (United on the Clubs' Behalf), the espects of which were first outlined from a variety of viewpoints, then debated and finally summarised in a resolution.

It was a mammoth programme, but with the words of encouragement still ringing in their ears, delegates set to with a will. Indeed, they were so busy that the controversial part of the proceedings was almost demoted to a peripheral role.

Elections were due, as was a vote on the much-debated proposal to increase contributions by clubs and associations affiliated to the DSB.

Willi Weyer was so intent on increasing contributions that he had announced his intention to step down if the meeting did not back the proposal.

But the ovation after his report on four years as DSB president seems to have reassured him so much that he allowed himself to be re-elected before a decision was reached on DSB finances.

His confidence proved justified, the proposal was endorsed by the conference, the DSB's future independence from Bonn's purse was assured and Herr Weyer himself was seen to be in unchallenged command of organised sport.

He is a hard worker and puts sound arguments volubly. Willi Weyer deserves most of the credit for the sleeping giant DSB now beginning to stretch its limbs.

At Munich there were serious signs that organised sport is about to wake up once and for all.

*Harald Pieper*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 May 1978)



## WORLD CUP

**A tense moment from one of the most eagerly-awaited sporting events in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany — the national side's first defence of the World Cup soccer trophy in Argentina. The game against Poland ended in a 0-0 draw which held German fans to their television sets until the last second. The game was generally rated as disappointing, with the German press hailing goalkeeper Sepp Maier, hero of several saves, as the only star. German television, which flew 14 tons of equipment to the Argentine, is providing viewers with blanket coverage of the event, held every four years.**

(Photo: dpa)

# Sport for Aged wants to work on broader front

About a decade ago Käthe Stroetges, an able young lady with a flair for organisation, discovered a gap in the services offered by gymnastics and sports clubs.

None of them catered much for the senior citizen, she noted. So she set up a sports club for the elderly which has since burgeoned into a state-wide organisation.

In Mönchengladbach alone, a city of 150,000, the club has 1,800 members who can choose between a wide range of regular sporting activities.

Municipal and government authorities always have an ear for new ideas, and since the senior citizens' sports association has the edge on other sports clubs, the movement has snowballed in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The Düsseldorf Education Ministry grants the association 100,000 marks a year, and since it was refused membership of the Land sports league instead.

Frau Stroetges has now launched a nationwide Sports Week for the Aged, complete with an official conference. It proved a success, with 300 delegates representing charitable organisations and her own association.

They agreed that the country's ten million old people ought to be induced to put in a little exercise now and again. The lectures and demonstrations contained little that was new, but there was much talk of the "two sides", meaning welfare organisations and sports clubs and associations.

It soon appeared that sport for the aged is not a strictly accurate designation. Many delegates favoured canvassing middle-aged support and not merely aiming at the over-60s.

Logically enough, efforts to gain ground among the not-so-old were viewed in the wider context of the DSB's Sport for All and Leisure Policy schemes.

The general feeling was that activities for the elderly must aim first at providing opportunities for communication and only then concentrate on the health aspect, whether for prevention or therapy.

Isolation was rated a serious problem. In Mönchengladbach at any rate old people are left very much to themselves.

Where possible, clubs are to try and integrate with larger sports clubs providing facilities for all kinds of sports.

Hamburger Turnerschaft von 1816, the oldest sports club in the world, has set a good example, proving that it is not merely the world's oldest gymnastics club but also a club keen to keep abreast of the times.

The spokesman for the North Rhine-Westphalian Education Ministry argued that state and local government authorities ought only to lend initial help, thereafter providing no more than occasional subsidies.

Sports facilities for old people, he said, should be run by sports organisations. He particularly welcomed the gymnastics for senior citizens section of the Gymnastics Association.

This working party includes representatives of church welfare organisations and the churches, but gaps persist. Clubs ought to shoulder special responsibility for specific old people's homes, it was suggested.

Sport for the Aged is a good idea if not, perhaps, an ideal solution. But it has set people thinking, so one can but hope that the Bonn Ministry of Family and Youth Affairs and Health continues to demonstrate goodwill.

The ministry lent the Mönchengladbach conference financial backing. May it continue to do so when the working party for senior citizens' gymnastics submits proposals jointly vetted by welfare and sports organisations.

*Liesel Niemeyer*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 May 1978)